

New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 • MARCH 1999



La Marcha takes over Mission Street. Photo by Gary Stenger

North Mission Town Hall Meeting will be held March 13 at the Roxie

The North Mission community, centered at Valencia and Mission is probably the most diverse part of the city. The thriving restaurant and entertainment district the fills up the streets with weekend revelers also contains the Mission's highest concentration of residential hotels, filled with people a hairs breadth from homelessness. Like other parts of the city the 16th Street area is in the midst of economic transformation that make its contrasts all the more dramatic. New condominiums are being built two blocks from the perpetually troubled Valencia Gardens Housing Projects and in the adjacent industrial area once the source of jobs, \$500,000 live/ work housing is replacing vacant factories.

The working class residents, artists, immigrant families and mom and pop businesses that have given the area its vital character may thrive in the course of this change but they could just as well be swept away by it. Now taking place in the North Mission microcosm is what Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown called "the completion of the unfinished agenda of urban America."

A unified effort is the first priority. So, building on the success of the one held in October of last year, organizers have scheduled a second Town Hall Meeting for Saturday, March 13, 10am to 1pm at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th Street.

A panel composed of residents, businesses and nonprofits, which form the major constituency groups in the Mission will give reports from focused sessions on business, resident and youth issues. There will also be a "State of the Neighborhood Report." As the a result of the Town Hall Meeting organizers hope to generate concrete proposals for action to be presented to city officials.

An underlying concern of many community members, gentrification, will be a subject of special consideration. Gentrification is a label applied imprecisely to a broad spectrum of activities. It has been used to describe any positive changes such as planting street trees or cleaning up trash, that may lead to the displacement of people on the low end of the income scale. The Town Hall will try to define exactly what gentrification is and what its long and short term effect on the North Mission will be. Not an easy job.

The Town Hall Meeting is sponsored by the 16th Street/North Mission Neighborhood Association and supported by the Roxie Cinema, Mission Housing Development Association, Mission Merchants Association, Unity Foundation, Intersection for the Arts, Ti Couz Restaurant, Mission Police Station and others. For more information call 415/ 332-5800 x116.

The fight against urban removal hits the streets

Divergent forces take aim at the downside of the economic upturn

By Lydia Rheinfrank

The Mission District is experiencing its greatest economic boom in memory but among many working class and middle income residents there is a growing fear of displacement. Last month this translated into direct action aimed at exposing unfair treatment of local business, the city's failure to provide basic services and the explosion of live/work development. Two events, La Marcha (a march to neighborhood hot spots) and the opening salvo in a campaign by Coalition for Jobs Arts and Housing (CJAH) to overhaul San Francisco's live/work law got things rolling.

Flashpoints tell the story

More than a hundred strong and carrying signs saying "Affordable housing NOW, not valet parking" and "No Martinis, The Party's Over," a roving protest march organized by the newly formed, grassroots Mission Defense Committee moved through Mission streets on February 27, slowing and stopping traffic, chanting, and darting into crowds of onlookers to hand out leaflets.

Visits to five different flashpoints

prompted marchers to question whether the city's inconsistent use of the legal system has broken along class and racial lines. While two Latina, small business owners have come under meticulous government scrutiny and a local neighborhood has fought for seven years to turn an abandoned lot into a park, other lots (empty or not) have quickly been approved for luxury live/work construction, with no government hindrance. Critics also point out that the city has not taken action against live/work residents who fail to conduct business from their units.

"There is still so much discrimination. We have to fight," said 76 year-old Beatrice Reyes as she walked carefully down Mission Street. "*El Pueblo Unido, Nunca Será Vencido!*" Reyes then yelled at the top of her lungs.

At 23rd and Shotwell, Carmen Ramirez, choked with tears, expressed her gratitude to the gathered walkers for their support of her flower shop battle. "This is my dream," Ramirez said, "and I have the right!" Even though she held a city business permit, a neighbor complained that Ramirez was illegally operating a business in a space zoned residential. The com-

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NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEM SOLVING GUIDE SEE PAGE 24

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The lamest dirt

by vmiller

Hardly had I recovered from Zippergate and Jerry Falwell's bombshell about the Telly Tubbies when the *San Francisco Weekly* revealed my friend Jose Najar to be the Prince of Darkness, well maybe just the Arch-Duke of Darkness. I've always thought my life would be so much more interesting if my friends and acquaintances were as evil as they appear in the media but such has not been the case. The person excoriated over nine pages (including the cover) of the ersatz alternative bore little resemblance to the one I know, except that both have ungodly amounts of energy.

I knew that Jose Najar, who operates the Andora Inn, has been involved in some unpleasant battle with his downstairs neighbors who run the Elysium Cafe who, from my experience, also seemed like nice folks. The initial dispute over loud music (the Elysium's) and a leaky roof and pipes (the Andora's) proved unresolvable by the two businesses themselves and lawyers were called in. Still things seemed under control. Leaks? Noise? Surely they could work it out. But when you're involved in extended litigation and share the same premises, each daily encounter rubs a raw wound rawer. If you've ever known a couple going through a nasty divorce or a prolonged custody fight, you know what I mean. The intensity level goes through the roof; biting and eye gouging are permitted while the truly unspeakable is left to the attorneys.

There is an unfortunate tendency among journalists to feed on such situations, to poke through court records, to find fresh kill by a member of the legal profession aggressively advocating for his or her client and to then carrion-like engorge themselves, sometimes to the point of unconsciousness. It makes for lurid but obviously one-sided pieces of investigative entertainment.

In the case at hand, Najar has been accused of using his connections to elected officials and his position as vice president of the city's Small Business Advisory Commission and president of the Mission Merchant's Association to call down the wrath of the fire, police, health and building departments on the Elysium. The unsettling truth is anyone equipped with the right telephone numbers and a reasonable familiarity with city codes (of which there are probably far too many) can make life pretty uncomfortable for the party of their choice, provided there is some basis, no matter how slim, for the complaint. Sufficiently motivated individuals and tiny neighborhood groups have worked this side of the street for good and for ill since the founding of the city. (With some trepidation, the *News* has published a list of

Editorial

such phone numbers on page 24 of this issue.)

More disturbingly Najar's past brushes with the law were also thrown into the mix, I suppose to demonstrate that he's some kind of career criminal. In the eighties he had a cocaine habit and got caught stealing cars to support it. Since then he's turned his life around to the point where he can be accused of being a political insider. But in the bizarre world we live in, both a person's past indiscretions and current prominence can be used simultaneously to malign their character. To any young person today whose gotten into to trouble this says forget about pulling yourself up, somebody will eventually show up to pull you back down.

Hasn't every poll shown the public's supposedly insatiable desire for scandal was satiated by the repulsiveness and triviality of the recent impeachment hearings? What's next, front-page exposés on the overdue library books of the county chicken inspector?

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The fight against urban removal

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plaint forced Ramirez into a yearlong tangle of conflicting, obscure city ordinances and hearings.

Dolores Reyes, a life time Mission resident, and 14-year owner of Mi Rancho Market has met similar government obstacles. When Reyes' landlord sold the property at 20th and Shotwell to a developer, Reyes was forced to turn in her liquor license until she located a new site for her business. Two weeks later after securing space at 21st and South Van Ness, Reyes was denied the liquor license due to the moratorium on new licenses in the Mission. With 40% of her business tied to imported wines from Central and South America, Reyes is financially strapped.

"They're cutting my wings," she told marchers. "I was born and raised here. I raised four children. I worked all my life. I'm too old to be a housewife. Now that I'm goddamn 50 they want to throw me out."

At 23rd and Folsom Street, neighbors have fought for seven years to convert a contaminated lot into a park. Despite persistent community protest and rallies by nearby Cesar Chavez school children, the site became entangled in legal haggling between the city and property owners over the responsibility for toxic clean up. Finally, it seems to be on the way to becoming a park.

Development proved anything but slow at 21st and Harrison, where lumber piles and concrete intestines of sixteen future upscale live/work units lay below an already erected wall of units, standing two floors higher than any adjacent Victorian home. And at 20th and Folsom, a string of small, family-owned businesses stood on the prospected verge of development. The locations are two of hundreds that have sprung up within a few years with no government delay or hassle.

"There are several Latino businesses who had no clue that [displacement] was happening to them. We need to look at the law that's allowing this," Eric Quesada of Mission Housing Development declared to cheers and shouts. A ten foot puppet of the mayor with "Owner Move-in Eviction" brief case in hand and the motto "Evict the Poor, Attack the Homeless, House the Rich" bobbed ominously above the cheering marchers' heads.

"I've lived in the Mission for 500 years," said Jaime Gutierrez, a member of the Mission Defense Committee that helped organize La Marcha. A third year law student at New College of California, Gutierrez sees himself as part of an anti-gentrification movement that is made up mostly of working-class Latino families. He charges real-estate developers and incoming *gentros* or yuppies of "culturacide," which he describes as the destruction, by means of displacement, of an entire group of people.

Live/work under fire

Also on Saturday a CJAH meeting at Centro del Pueblo focused exclusively on the live/work issue. Maps covered with dots showed the proliferation of units built or in development throughout the Mission and SOMA areas and a leaflet spelled out the issue's chronological history, beginning in 1988 with the Live/Work ordinance's passing.

"We are political realists," said John Elberling, a 20-year Mission resident, CJAH is an organization focusing on the live/work issue. "We need to make a list of demands and go to the Board of Supervisors. We need to look at what the City will be in the future." With district elections approaching in November,

CJAH members believe the their demands will be better heard.

Brad Paul, one of the ordinance's creators, showed slides of the original artists' live/work concept. "As you can see," he said, showing one of the first spaces, "These were not fancy. They had high ceilings, were funky, messy, and artists actually worked there. There were community spaces, common kitchens, and in this case, the toilet was right in the general live/work area."

Paul went on to describe the vision's unraveling, the eventual destruction or conversion of live/work lofts into office space, and then developers' recent adaptation, via vague language loop-holes in the ordinance, to build the current interpretation of artist living. At \$400,000 to \$600,000 apiece, the units are far beyond a typical artist's budget.

Alma Robinson, a member of California Lawyers for the Arts, lamented the brash disregard for the work aspect of the ordinance. "I remember sitting in at the 1997 July Planning Commission meeting," Robinson said, "and hearing one of the commissioners say, 'If you have a camera and use it once a year, that's an arts activity.'"

Debra Walker, a 15 year Mission resident and well-known artist, spoke about the original intentions to create "islands," protected from real estate speculation, to encourage San Francisco arts. A resident of Project Two, one of the original, authentic live/work spaces, Walker said, "I would never have been able to succeed without that incubator space."

CJAH outlined several points for which it plans to fight including the strengthening of Industrial Preservation Zones - urban areas protected from any further residential development - and a moratorium on future live/work development as well as projects already in the planning process.

Well-versed in housing language and policy, many CJAH members are familiar with navigating complicated legalities and government bureaucracies. Some members have worked on city planning boards,

even under the current Mayor. With that knowledge in hand, CJAH believes it has the advantage in championing live/work concerns.

Cultura counts

"Housing is falling like dominos," long time observer and opponent of the live/work tidal wave Sue Hestor said. "But until now, it really hasn't been visible. This kind of event [La Marcha] takes it to the people in the street. We need more people to know." Hestor believes efforts like La Marcha in addition to CJAH's Planning Commission battles will stop gentrification. "But we'll need even more than that," she said, "We need to do a lot of organizing in the neighborhoods."

"We're not anywhere without the people pressure," Gutierrez said. "I would love to see all of the organizations fighting for housing to come together, but we're fighting for *cultura* as well. We feel that it's not just housing, but an attack on our people, *la raza*."

Both events sought to address the issue of gentrification and preserve the Mission's affordability, but communication is nearly non-existent between the two groups. Predominantly Latino and based on direct, visible action, La Marcha differed from the mostly Anglo, policy-dri-

While the anti-gentro movement gathers steam, it remains to be seen if community efforts will be combined, or continue on parallel, but uncommunicative paths. In the meantime, several upcoming events provide Mission community members the opportunity to take action and contribute to the movement.

COMMUNITY DESIGN MEETING for the 23rd and Treat Park, Saturday, March 6, 10am at Cesar Chavez School, 825 Shotwell.

TOWN HALL MEETING Saturday March 13, 10am at Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th Street. Agenda includes Live/work and gentrification items.

COALITION FOR JOBS ART AND HOUSING MEETING Saturday March 13, 10am at the Quaker Meeting House, 65 9th Street (between Market & Mission)

COMMUNITY FORUM, Sunday March 14, 6pm at Brava Theater, 2781 24th Street at York.

HEARING FOR NUEVO RAMIZE NURSERY & FLOWERS, March 18, 1pm (Rally at Noon), City Hall, Room 400.

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Live/work moratorium: a good idea but it's too little and too late

Opinion by Judy West

The Coalition for Jobs, Arts and Housing (CJAH) is a new incarnation of some old friends, affordable housing and slow growth advocates (John Elberling, Calvin Welch, Brad Paul and Sue Hestor), with a few like-minded artists, trying to find a solution to the latest economic and development crisis now facing the industrial and artist sectors of our City: out-of-control luxury housing under the guise of Live/Work development. San Francisco is one of those cities where a strong economy can be viewed as an economic crisis!

A review of the recent proposals presented by CJAH to stop "phony Live/Work" development and to create a new "Work/Live code" in its place, may sound like a solution on the surface but it's still missing the same ingredient our current system is lacking - enforcement of the planning code.

In a nut shell, CJAH proposes an immediate moratorium on all live/work development and a repeal of the current laws until new legislation can be approved which protects the businesses, artists and low income populations that are suffering with the current policies. The existing Live/Work codes and enabling State legislation are very clear in their intention to protect these same groups, but unfortunately the planning code language is vague enough in parts that the enforcement has been sidestepped and our current administration has chosen not to enforce it.

CJAH's proposal does include some important components such as the requirement that 20 percent of the units be made affordable to a lower income group. But if these units were required to have only legitimate businesses in them to begin with, that alone would keep the price of most of the units down. I strongly prefer the path of first pushing for enforcement of the existing laws, which would apply, to the thousands of units already built or permitted, as well as the future ones. It can be dangerous to wait for some new system some years off, after some undefined new legislation is in place which may not be any better than what we have currently.

Guest Opinion

Unfortunately, some CJAH members seem too wrapped up in the single-minded purpose of stopping their old enemy Joe O'Donoghue and the Residential Builders Association with a moratorium, to recognize the valuable elements of the existing Live/Work codes (which are simply not being enforced).

Current law reads that a live/work space is a commercial occupancy that combines a residential living space with an integrated workspace principally used by one or more of the residents. It should not require long, drawn-out, re-zoning legislation to clarify what it means, "to use a commercial work space." The City could adopt standard policy guidelines like those used by the IRS to distinguish between a hobby and a business.

The current system whereby the City enforces the illegal in-law codes is based on complaint-driven action. The burden should be on the Live/Work occupant to provide some compelling evidence that there is a business or legitimate work activity going on in the space. If you are not engaged in a business or a legitimate work activity you should be living in a residential district not a commercial one.

The Board of Supervisors could easily take control of this problem and mandate that the Planning Department allocate the staff and develop a system to enforce the current code. The Board of Supervisors will listen to their constituents whereas the Planning Commission is appointed, so speak up!

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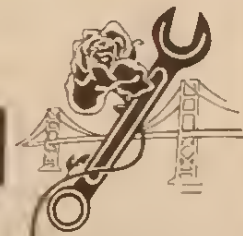
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Cirdorkia:

the Mission's brave new café

By Popocatepetl

It's a rainy Saturday afternoon in the Mission. As I approach Starbucks consummate consumer-espresso expenment, a smiling Salvadoran mother and son outside remind me of the Mission's beautifully colorful, mural-dotted heritage of diversity and adaptation. Walking around in the Mission, in the rain, I reminisce of Carnaval street parties, Carlos Santana, pupusas, Latinas and Filipinas. Aaaaaah... the Mission.

Upon entering Cirdorkia, a self-proclaimed "coffee house," and "gathering place for coffee, casual and intellectual conversation." I'm greeted by a sign: Please wait to be seated. I wait. I'm seated, reluctantly, at the only empty table in the place - which also happens to be the biggest. "The bar would be much faster," my hostess advises. "That's okay," I reassure her, "I'm not in a hurry."

Almost everyone in here is white - excuse me, of European heritage. Browsing through the eleven-page menu/book, to the drone of soft music and the relaxed mumblings of "www-thus, and dot-com-that," I can't help noticing the ubiquitous credit card phones and omnipresent laptops placed among cushy sofa chairs. The words 'comfort and convenience' seem to whisper into my ear from some unseen source. The décor could be described as 'industrial-living-room-ish,' or simply 'cyber-mellow,' and although it may be user-friendly it could stand to be a little more pro-active. It might even help the clientele interact on the same page if it were Rastified by, say, 10 % or so, sooner rather than later.

Money is obviously no obstacle here, so I order the namesake drink, a coffee-liqueur concoction weighing in at \$7.25 - which is just about the size of a regular cup of joe. I'm a little disappointed, but have to admit it's dang tasty, even if I could've gotten two Castillito Vegetariano's for the same price. I don't even want to calculate how many Mi Rancho tamales I could get for the price of just one Circadian sweat-shirt. I soon grow tired of eavesdropping on the Marina-style conversations of computers and corporate scuttlebutt, and feel compelled to take my slightly buzzed and wired dome somewhere more real, like Zeitgeist perhaps.

But wait! A final thought: this is the ideal place for some biotech employee for a Java-jump and to scarf up a bit of lunch, or perhaps for that wealthy slacker to finally begin writing that screenplay-idea-thing-Seinfeld-episode, uh -I mean Friends episode. This is no place to worry about all that boring political stuff, like the imminent Gentrification of the Mission, or the looming execution of Mumia Abu Jamal... or the innocent Nigerians being killed off by Chevron in the name of Corporate Profits. Do people really kill for oil? People do. What's up with that?

I'd love to stay and write more, but I've got to run -gotta' go! Check my e-mail -run to Safeway -grab some World Wraps -chug some Jamba Juice -drop-off at Blockbuster -pickup at Kinko's, and all before the cellular rings again, or there's a line at the ATM, or that traffic light turns red and the market shifts, or the internet crashes and I have to sell all my Yahoo stock... by the way, what ever happened to that other place called Yahoo that used to be on Valencia Street? Didn't they used to sell worms or herbs, or something? That place was never open. Hup! -Late for work, time to go - Consume. Obey. Why ask why? There's just *twenty-four* hours.



Taco Hell

By Antonio Perales Fierro

On January 19, there appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle an article, for the most part congratulatory, about a young San Franciscan who has achieved success as the voice, in TV ads, of the Taco Bell Chihuahua. This success has apparently been lucrative for Argentine born Carlos Alazraqui; he was able to help his mother buy a condo and he has a new three-bedroom house, and plenty of sky-diving lessons at \$60 a jump. And he might go to Europe this summer.

The fact that "Hispanic groups" have protested Taco Bell's commercials is mentioned briefly in the article, and also that the company has advised Alazraqui not to respond to these complaints. He claims the accent can't be pinned down.

Where I am employed the company cars are radio-equipped. In late December of 1998, I overheard another employee (white male) being given instructions. He

answered with a kind of "Hispanic" lilt, "Ok, I go now to the taco revolution." I immediately picked up my radio mic and said "Ok, you can cut out that stereotypical bullshit!" The employee responded, "I didn't mean to stereotype anyone - I was just repeating what I heard on TV." Not wishing to take up radio time on this issue, I merely said "There is no excuse for that."

When I returned to the office later, the manager (young, white male) came over to say he'd heard about the incident. I said, "Yeah, I had to respond to that comment." After which the manager said to me, "Well, you know, he didn't really mean it!" I let this comment pass for the moment and clocked out.

After thinking the incident over as I rode home on BART, I decided to phone the manager at the first opportunity. I said, "Look, when you tell me that the guy didn't mean it -that means you aren't taking me very seriously. I don't want you making this guy feel good or even OK about what he's done, and I don't want him being told: 'Tony is just hypersensitive.' I want you to know that my culture, my ethnic background, my history, the color of my skin, the language that I speak, our music, our dance, our national costumes, Indians, mestizos such as myself, and even Spaniards are not topics for jokes or ridicule. I want you to tell this guy that his behavior was inappropriate, and explain what will happen if he continues with that kind of behavior. Understand?" The manager answered "Kind of..." I finished with "Ok, I'll see you tomorrow at work," and I hung up.

After this, the manager hardly spoke to me for about three weeks -whereas before we had had a good easy going relationship as manager and employee. Previously we would joke around and talk about hot rods, aircraft welding, silk-screening, graphics, T-shirt designs, comic book collecting, and so on. This all went out the window. Also I'd been intending to discuss with him the process of giving raises. I still haven't. And I'm talking here about a basically decent and likable person, but one in shock over a new and uncomfortable situation.

We shouldn't minimize the impact of stereotypes on our lives -it isn't something like the name-calling of school children that can perhaps be ignored. Stereotypes promote abuse and victimization and directly affect how people with dark skins and/or Spanish surnames are looked upon and treated when we seek education, employment and housing. Stereotypes can promote torture and murder. In East Texas, an African American was dragged to his death behind a truck because of stereotypes.

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[A DISCUSSION ABOUT LIVE WORK NO. 1 IN A SERIES]

Lies that disappear like a fist when you open your hand.



HOW LONG IS THE SHELF LIFE OF A LIE? The San Francisco Residential Builders have recently been the subject of a barrage of Bold Faced Lies in the alternative media about new "live-work" housing units. The spore of the lie is that our members have been evicting tenants and businesses South of Market to build new "live-work" units. This is a bold-faced, unmitigated falsehood.

No member of the Residential Builders has evicted, or "displaced," a single tenant or business in any of the more than 1000 units of new housing we have built on abandoned industrial sites South of Market since such construction began back in 1996.

No tenant has been evicted.
No business has been evicted.
Never.

A wise person once said that a lie is like counterfeit money — many people who would not coin it, circulate it without qualms.

The lie about the Residential Builders Association "evicting" tenants and businesses South of Market has been widely repeated in the press and by the chatter mouths on talk radio. Such a lie is a fist in the face of our hard-working membership.

We are stating God's truth against a fist full of lies — that we have evicted no one for "live-work" while building desperately needed new housing.

We cannot open the tightly clenched fists of our detractors. But we can, and will, bare our own hands.

On this page we freely disclose the addresses of sites where we have built live-work units South of Market since 1996.

Anyone can go to the Planning Department, the Rent Stabilization Board or the Sheriff's Department and confirm that there have been no evictions at these sites. The reckless suggestions by opponents of live-work that we have been evicting tenants or displacing

existing businesses are bold damnable lies.

City records show that the condition of these sites — if they were not already vacant lots — were vacant, earthquake or fire-damaged structures, empty warehouses, junkyards, long abandoned railway tracks or temporary parking lots. Many of these vacant sites have been breeding grounds for crime that South of Market neighbors have complained about for years.

What San Francisco's planning bureaucracy calls "live-work" is loft living type construction built on the sites of abandoned industrial-use buildings which has added successfully, without controversy, to the housing stock in cities from New York to Oakland. Mayor Jerry Brown is proposing 10,000 new live-work sites for Oakland: only the Bay Guardian thinks that is a bad idea.

The second lie propagated by the no-growth ideologues who are attacking live-work is that the new housing is driving small business out of town, particularly in the South of Market. Statistics clearly show otherwise.

The City's gross receipts and payroll taxes are substantially higher than ever before. And the most dramatic increase in new

WE OPEN OUR HAND:

Below are the addresses where the Residential Builders have built live-work units in the South of Market between 1996 and early 1999. City records in the Planning Department, Rent Stabilization Board and the Sheriff's Department will confirm that there have been no evictions at these sites

1375 Harrison St.	249 Shipley St.
735 Tennessee	281 Clara St.
1800 Bryant St.	675 Tennessee
701 Pennsylvania	1145 Howard St.
695 Pennsylvania	159 Russ
3000 18th St.	2170 Harrison St.
1020 Mariposa	3118 18th St.
2080 3rd St.	786 Minna St.
2011 - 3rd St.	260 Clara St.
610 Illinois	356 - 12th St.
755 Florida	21 Isis
23rd Minnesota	358 - 12th St.
49 Missouri St.	8 Bernice
325 Welsh St.	2068 Third St.
74 Brady St.	2030 Third St.
50 Lucerne St.	655 Tennessee
340 Rich St.	638 Minna St.
81 Langton	3121 20th St.
56 Moss St.	74 Brady St.
139 Welsh St.	965 Folsom St.
49 Missouri St.	21 Stillman St.
999 16th St.	971 Howard St.
1099 23rd St.	1220 Folsom St.
635 Tennessee	1325 Indiana St.
615 Tennessee	1310 Minnesota
2501 Harrison St.	633 Hampshire
2875 21st St.	

small businesses is in the City's South of Market where start-up high tech firms, some from Silicon Valley, have given the area the nickname "Cyber-Gulch." Live-work is providing satellite office housing for employees of these new small businesses who would otherwise bid into the present compacted, over-priced city housing market, further raising prices for all.

The South of Market in San Francisco is the only area zoned to allow residential-mixed residential business-at-home use. Live work units fit like the stamp

to the envelope, the high-tech lifestyle requirements of the new high-tech generation, where home-offices are wired into larger office complexes. Live-work units are built to accommodate the needs of the wired generation, and the wired generation is moving into the South of Market because live-work units are there. For once, by zoning this area to accommodate live-work, the City did something right. But the no-growth grouches are trying to wreck it by lying about the facts.

Think about it. Live-work works for San Francisco.

Meanwhile rents continue to increase because there is a minimum of growth in the San Francisco housing stock. Home prices and apartment rents are so hideously high here because the city put the breaks on building new housing two decades ago. The policy of down-zoning to curb new apartment construction came in the era of the freeway revolt when San Francisco didn't want growth. The City nonetheless grew during the past quarter century with little new housing to keep pace. Now we are paying the price, such as \$1800 and up a month for a one-bedroom apartment and junior two bedroom homes selling for as much as half a million dollars.

The net result of this no growth policy is that San Francisco's housing prices are the highest in the nation.

The people who created the current housing crisis by championing no-growth policies are now opposing live-work development even in abandoned industrial areas.

The policies of the no-growth ideologues have created a stranglehold on housing and strained, often to the breaking point, the quality of life of San Francisco citizens who simply cannot afford to live here anymore.

The time has come for a reckoning. We move to open the discussion by laying the truth on the table.

Open Door Day allegation shakes up Mission Station

Permit officer is reassigned and transferred in fight over liquor license

By Victor Miller

During Mayor Brown's Saturday February 6 Open Door Day, a woman who failed to get police department approval for a liquor license charged Mission Station permit officer Jim Ludlow with misconduct and unjustly denying her application. According to Ron Vinson of the Mayor's Press Office, Brown was "outraged when he heard her story" and ordered an immediate investigation by the police department. The reaction to the mayor's wrath was swift. On Monday morning, February 8, Ludlow was relieved of his duties as the Mission's permit officer, a fairly powerful position in the approval process for liquor, cabaret and other permits that can make or break a business. Ludlow was also immediately transferred out of Mission Station where he had spent 23 years of his 30-year career.

Ludlow's troubles stem from his recommendation to Captain Greg Suhr of Mission Station that Vimla Yadav be denied a liquor license for the Broiler Room at 2700 16th Street. Ludlow said he based his recommendation solely on Yadav's 1996 misdemeanor conviction for maintaining "a house of ill fame," a brothel. Ms. Yadav on a signed individual personal affidavit form of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) dated July 24, 1998 listed her occupation as hotel owner between 1993 and 1997. The hotel in question is the Crystal on Eddy Street in the Tenderloin, an establishment that has a long association with the neighborhood's prostitution problems. "I would have been derelict in my duty, if I had given my approval on her license," Ludlow said. Suhr, acting on Ludlow's recommendation, sent written notice to the ABC, which rarely goes counter to the decisions of local police stations, that the permit should not be granted.

A few complications

Yadav's attorney, Paul Slavitt says things are not quite that straightforward. When Yadav originally came to Ludlow in June of last year regarding the Broiler Room, Ludlow recommended she use the services of a permit facilitator, a specialized private consultant many businesses find essential in navigating the city's byzantine bureaucracy. Ludlow gave Yadav the business card of Rita Mak of the Jaidin Consulting Group. (Police officers with few exceptions are not prohibited from referring business. In official department guidelines on "Community Policing and Problem Solving" they are actually encouraged to give the "customer" the "right" referral).

Jaidin is a well-known San Francisco firm with a client list that includes Safeway, the Gap, Citibank and other major corporations. Yadav, her mother and Michael Ohomba signed a contract with Jaidin to get plans drawn, fees paid and the necessary documents prepared for the Boiler Room to open as a restaurant and night club. A dispute then arose between Mak and Yadav over a \$10,000 invoice from Jaidin. Slavitt claims that up to this point Ludlow and Mak had assured Yadav there would be no problems with her permits and that Ludlow and Mak had both been told from the beginning about Yadav's conviction. According to Slavitt when the disagreement over the invoice came up, Ludlow suddenly changed his mind and recommended against the liquor license.

Ludlow and Mak both maintain that

Yadav never revealed her record to them. "These people have deceived everyone from the very beginning," Ludlow said. "Had I known about this I never would have agreed to work with them," said Mak. "You can see who our clients are, do you think we would have mislead these people for a few thousand dollars and risked ruining our reputation?" Mak asked. Mak said other small business referrals she had received from Ludlow she regarded as more in the line of community service work than business.

Life savings on the line

Slavitt maintains his client would not jeopardize her life savings by trying to conceal the conviction and would not have begun operating the Broiler Room without strong assurances from Ludlow that her criminal record would not interfere with converting a very marginal daytime restaurant into a night club. Slavitt argues that Yadav's only involvement in the Crystal Hotel was working as a night clerk, and that her legal

problems only came about due to activities of her husband and his family. Yadav obtained a divorce in 1996 and claims she has made a clean break with her husband's family. She is now six months into renovation work such as sound proofing and kitchen ventilation with diminishing expectations that the nightclub will be able to open.

Two investigations

On December 14, 1998 Yadav filed a complaint against Ludlow with the Office of Civilian Complaints (OCC), the city agency that reviews charges of police misconduct. The OCC investigation apparently did not warrant Ludlow's removal as permit officer or transfer out of Mission Station. Until the mayor initiated the separate two-day "investigation," Ludlow had continued to act as permit officer in the Mission for almost two months after Yadav's complaint was filed.

Who's telling the truth in this matter rests solely on what passed verbally between the Ludlow and Yadav, making the mayor's and subsequently the Police Department's rapid and dramatic actions all the more surprising. Ludlow does have one piece of evidence in his favor. On the individual affidavit form signed by Yadav, the section asking if the applicant has ever been convicted of a crime Yadav checked

the "no" box, a clear indication of an attempt to mislead the ABC. Slavitt countered that the form was probably "prepared by a consultant," nevertheless Yadav signed it. Eventually, it was Yadav's 80-year old mother who applied for the liquor license.

ABC investigator, Janine Wong said her agency is still reviewing the Broiler Room's application and may not necessarily follow the advice of the police. "We conduct our own independent investigation," she said.

Yadav is attempting to get a refund from Jaidin based on the fact that she never got a liquor license. Jaidin isn't budging. "The implication is we were selling them the permit, which is not the case," Mak insisted.

Ludlow remains in limbo as station keeper at Taraval Station. Captain Suhr described Ludlow as "an excellent permit officer." Suhr said, as far as he was concerned Ludlow could resume his duties as permit officer if he is cleared of any wrong doing in his handling of the Broiler Room permit. But Ron Vinson while conceding that Ludlow could return to Mission Station, said "Mayor Brown wants permit officers rotated every 2 to 3 years, since he [Ludlow] was in that position for a longer period of time, he probably won't be back at that job."



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THIS MONUMENTAL MURAL on 17th and Harrison was whitewashed last summer. No notification was given to the muralist's family or to the public. The Campusano family is bringing a suit against the developers, hoping not only to restore the mural but also to establish a precedent which will help insure the rights of a community to protect its public art and heritage. The stakes are high. So are the costs. We need your support!

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Seeing the Elephant

In English & Spanish



Lisa Milos

In defense of Pilar Mejia

Approximately 200 people came to January's San Francisco Board of Education meeting to show their support for Pilar Mejia, the recently transferred Principal of the Mission District's Cesar Chavez School.

A pre-kindergarten teacher from Cesar Chavez had filed a grievance with the District accusing Principal Mejia of anti-Semitism for deciding to transfer her out of the Bilingual Pre-Kindergarten program into the multicultural unit of the same school. The decision to transfer the teacher, according to Mejia, was due to the fact that she did not speak Spanish and that the majority of the children in that program were Spanish speaking. The School District ordered Mejia to reinstate the teacher to her original position which, she did. The District then ordered Ms. Mejia to require the teacher to participate in extracurricular activities in spite of her part time status. When this was done, the teacher again filed a grievance against Principal Mejia. Superintendent Bill Rojas then transferred Mejia without prior notice either to her, the staff or the parents in the middle of a school year.

Reading from a prepared statement during the Board of Education meeting, Mejia stated that at a September 1997 staff meeting, she commented that "all the Pre-K children were being taught by three White Jewish women," when she had first arrived at Cesar Chavez School. In her statement, Mejia said that she had already sincerely apologized for offending anyone with this comment and had already clarified that her "intention was simply to point out that Spanish speaking children at the Pre-K level were being taught by teachers who did not speak Spanish and were not of Hispanic descent."

The conflict arose when full time staff members complained about the lack of participation by part time staff members in the school's extracurricular activities. Mejia then consolidated four part time positions into two full time positions in order to improve staff participation levels in the Pre-K department. Since the majority of the Pre-K pupils were primarily Spanish speaking children, bilingual teachers were required to fill the two full time positions. The teacher presenting the allegations was, in reality, transferred to another department because she did not speak Spanish.

Kent Mitchell, President of the United Educators of San Francisco said that they counseled the teacher on the transfer issue and presented a grievance with regard to the consolidation of staff positions. But when the "other" allegation came up they advised her to seek legal counsel.

It doesn't seem to matter much to the District or the Union that Mejia's comment had been taken out of context to serve the interests of an unqualified teacher or that the children's ethnicity is being consistently underrepresented throughout California in terms of the ethnicity of the professional staff.

Mitchell said that when the teacher was reinstated to her original position, they had no more grievances with Principal Mejia. Their grievance with her was due to the "unauthorized consolidation of the positions without regard to seniority or credentials." A principal can not create bilingual positions unless the district authorizes it and there are no bilingual credential requirements for any Unified School District Pre-K program in the city.

200 to one

Although Rojas has been a long time advocate of bilingual education, when push came to shove, he showed his true colors, so to speak. Amidst the 200 people at the meeting that repudiated Rojas' decision, there was one lone voice in his support: Tracy Salkowitz, Executive Director of the American Jewish Congress (AJC). Ms. Salkowitz attempted to justify Rojas' decision by alluding to the comment that Mejia had made, attributing to it a meaning that it did not have. Principal Mejia had not said that white teachers shouldn't teach Latino children, as Ms. Salkowitz claimed.

But if Mejia had said that (which, I repeat, she didn't) it seems that Ms. Salkowitz and the American Jewish Congress, far from representing an ethnic minority (people of the Jewish faith and ethnic background) are, in this case, actually representing the majority by defending a white teacher's right to teach Spanish speaking Latino children even if that teacher doesn't speak Spanish.

According to the latest research, a child develops the social and cognitive abilities and habits that can ensure future academic success at the pre-Kindergarten level. So one would think that it is important for teachers to speak the language of their students. If the educator is able to communicate with both student and parent, then the teacher can better understand the child and become an identifiable role model. This identity factor is why there has been an explicit effort made by school districts throughout California to recruit teachers of color. Almost sixty five percent of all students in California are non-white. Only 15 percent of the teachers are people of color.

Under Mejia's leadership, Cesar Chavez School has been a model of accountability. All of the programs at Cesar Chavez celebrate diversity, and Mejia has implemented exceptional conflict resolution methods and a democratic decision making process. That is why the allegations made against her came as a shock to everyone who knows her.

Rojas recently stated that he will institute certain changes that will give priority to economically disadvantaged children. If that is really the case, then I support his bravery in confronting the most basic of inequalities: economic inequality. He may find, though, that in order to really help San Francisco's low income children, he might have to undo some of his previous decisions, like transferring Pilar Mejia.

En defensa de Pilar Mejia

Aproximadamente 200 personas asistieron a la reunion de enero de la Mesa de Educación para apoyar a Pilar Mejia, la Directora de la Escuela Cesar Chavez que fue recientemente transferida. Una profesora del departamento de Pre-Kinder de esa misma escuela había presentado una queja sobre la Directora ante el Distrito Escolar acusándola de discriminación étnica al ser trasladada desde el departamento de PreKinder a la unidad multicultural de esa misma escuela.

Según, la Directora, la profesora fue transferida porque no habla Español mientras que la mayoría de los niños de ese departamento son principalmente hispano parlantes. El Distrito Escolar le ordenó a Mejia restituir a la profesora en su puesto anterior, orden que acató inmediatamente. El Distrito también le dijo a la Directora que tenía que exigirle a la profesora que participara en las actividades extracurriculares a pesar de su estatus de medio tiempo. Al cumplir con este directivo, la profesora presentó otra queja ante el Distrito Escolar. El Superintendente Bill Rojas, decidió sacar a la Directora de su puesto y transferirla en medio de un año escolar. No fueron avisados ni el personal de la escuela, ni los padres.

De acuerdo a una declaración preparada que leyó Mejia durante la reunion de la Mesa de Educación, ella había comentado en Septiembre de 1997 que cuando ella comenzó a trabajar en la Escuela Cesar Chavez, "casi todos los niños del nivel Pre-Kinder estaban recibiendo instrucción de tres mujeres blancas judías." En la declaración preparada, dijo que ya se había disculpado por hacer ese comentario y que ya había aclarado que su intención había sido la de "destacar que los niños de habla Hispana a nivel pre-Kinder habían estado recibiendo instrucción de profesores que no hablaban Español y que no eran latinos."

El conflicto surgió cuando el personal de tiempo completo expreso su descontento por la falta de participación del personal de medio tiempo en las actividades extracurriculares de la escuela. Mejia entonces consolidó las cuatro posiciones de medio tiempo en dos posiciones de tiempo completo. Debido a que la mayoría de los alumnos de este departamento hablan Español como primer idioma, se necesitaban profesores bilingües para estas dos posiciones. La profesora que presentó la acusación en realidad fue transferida porque no habla español.

Kent Mitchell, Presidente de United Educators of San Francisco, el sindicato de profesores, dijo que ellos le ayudaron a esta profesora referente el tema de su traslado pero que cuando surgió la otra acusación le aconsejaron que se buscara asesoría legal.

No parece ser importante ni para el Distrito Escolar ni para el sindicato de profesores que el comentario de Pilar Mejia fue tergiversado para favorecer a una profesora no calificada ni el hecho que los grupos étnicos a los cuales los niños pertenecen no estan representados en el profesorado.

Mitchell, dijo además que al ser restituida la profesora a su puesto original, ya no tenían ninguna queja contra Mejia. Habían presentado la queja por la consolidación no autorizada de los puestos "sin considerarla antigüedad ni los credenciales de los profesores." Un director no puede crear un puesto bilingüe sin la autorización previa del Distrito escolar y no existen requisitos bilingües para ningún

programa preKinder del Distrito en la ciudad.

Defendiendo nuestro idioma

A pesar que Rojas se ha declarado a favor de la educación bilingüe, cuando llegó el tiempo de defenderla, se demostró incapaz de hacerlo.

Habían más de 200 personas en la reunion de la Mesa de Educación que repudiaron la decisión de Rojas y una sola voz a favor: la de Tracy Salkowitz, Directora Ejecutiva del American Jewish Congress (Congreso Judío-Americano). La Sra. Salkowitz trató de justificar la decisión del Rojas aludiendo al comentario de la Mejia y atribuyéndole un significado que no tuvo. La Directora Mejia, *nunca dijo que los profesores blancos no tienen el derecho o no pueden enseñar a los estudiantes latinos*, tal como afirmó la Sra. Salkowitz que ella dijo. Eso no fue lo que dijo Pilar Mejia. Pero aún si lo hubiera dicho (y quiero recalcar que no lo dijo), la Sra Salkowitz, al respaldar la decisión de Rojas, esta representando no a una minoría étnica (las personas judías) sino, en este caso, esta representando los intereses de la mayoría al defender el derecho de una profesora blanca de darle clases a niños que hablan Español aún cuando la profesora no habla ese idioma.

Según investigaciones recientes, la edad preKinder es cuando los niños desarrollan las habilidades cognitivas y los hábitos sociales esenciales para todo su futuro académico. Sería lógico, entonces, deducir que es importante que los profesores sepan hablar el mismo idioma que hablan los niños (para poder comunicarse con ellos y con sus padres) y que además sirvan de modelo con los cuales los niños puedan identificarse. Muchos distritos escolares a través de California han reconocido importante el factor de la identidad por eso que han intentado reclutar profesores que pertenecen a grupos minoritarios. Casi el 65 por ciento de todos los estudiantes del Estado son niños que pertenecen a grupos étnicos/raciales minoritarios mientras que solo el 15 por ciento de los profesores pertenecen a estos mismos grupos.

La Escuela Cesar Chavez, bajo el liderazgo de Directora Mejia ha implementado metodos ejemplares de resolución de conflicto y un proceso democrático en la toma de decisiones. Todos los programas en la escuela celebran la diversidad. Es por eso que estas acusaciones fueron tan chocantes para todos quienes la conocen.

Recientemente, Sr Rojas declaró que implementaría algunos cambios para otorgarles una prioridad especial a los niños económicamente en desventaja. Si es así, lo apoyaré por su valentía al enfrentarse a la desigualdad más básica: la económica.

Rojas se encontrará con un serio dilema, sin embargo, si realmente pretende ayudar a los niños de bajos ingresos de esta ciudad. Tendrá que revertir algunas de sus decisiones previas incluida la del traslado de Pilar Mejia.



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Andy Solow

Park and Wreckage revisited

During the last seven years, the Mission District has received in excess of \$4.5 million dollars from the City's Open Space Fund, to fund acquisition renovation and development projects at Dolores Park, Mission Playground, Franklin Field, 23rd and Treat, Alioto Mini Park, Jose Coronado Playground, and several other sites. Most of these projects have been completed. But, not the renovation of Jose Coronado playground, the development of a new park at 23rd & Treat, or the construction of a bathroom for Franklin Field.

Playground renovations stalled

In September of 1991, the community submitted a renovation plan for Jose Coronado Playground to the Open Space Committee. The Community's request was approved and funds have been available for the renovation since the fall of 1992. The Park Planners finally turned over the project to the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Bureau of Construction Management (BCM) nearly a year ago. But, since the demolition of the old children's play structure, fencing and field lights was completed nearly two months ago, no further work has been done on this project.

According to BCM supervisor Larry Wong, after taking over the JC Playground renovation project from Rec Park and DPW, BCM discovered that the City Planning Department had never made a finding of conformance with the City Master Plan for the new building because Rec Park and DPW forgot to ask them to do so. Wong further claimed that Rec Park and DPW had failed to obtain the necessary approval from the SF Art Commission for modifications to the existing murals necessary to accommodate the new building. Wong also indicated that the contractor the City has hired to build the new building is claiming that the existing plans do not provide access for the ongoing maintenance of the existing retaining walls. The contractor's request for a contract modification is also holding up the project. At press time, Wong claimed that construction would resume at JC Playground almost immediately.

Before it's over, the City will have spent almost eight years and close to \$600,000 designing and building a recreation room, a bathroom, an office, and a new play structure for JC Playground.

23rd St. and Treat Park hijacked delayed by bureaucrats

This project was proposed nearly seven years ago by the Calle 22 Neighborhood

Organization and has been fully funded for more than four years. Park Planner Marvin Yee completed the preliminary design for this proposed new park with community participation and approval in 1994. Yee's preliminary design includes a children's play area, a community garden, some passive use park space, and a small practice size athletic area.

On December 9, 1998, the City and County of San Francisco finally became the new owner of the 23rd and Treat Street site. Since then, head Park Planner Deborah Learner directed Park Planner Marvin Yee to reopen public comment and start the preliminary design process for 23rd & Treat all over again. The park planner's excuse was that too much time had passed since the last round of public design meetings.

At press time, park planner Yee told me that he had been directed to hold a series of three additional community design meetings for the 23rd and Treat Street Park. The first one is scheduled for Saturday March 6, 1999, at 10am at Cesar Chavez elementary school (between 22nd, 23rd, Folsom, and Shotwell).

Bungalow Bill bungles again

In November 1998, in a letter published in the News, SFUSD Superintendent Waldemar Rojas promised that "...a soccer field will be a part of the new [John O'Connell high school] campus and available to the Mission Community." At that time, SFUSD Facilities Planner Raphael Parra promised that the old bungalows that Bill Rojas declared "unsafe temporary structures" back in 1994 would be torn down by the end of February 1999. At press time in February, Parra told me that a demolition contract was being finalized with West Tech Engineering Corp., that all of the necessary approvals should be completed by February 24th, and the demolition of the bungalows should be

completed as promised by the end of the month.

That brings us to the construction of the soccer field. According to SFUSD's Executive Director of Facilities Development and Management Lucian Blazej, the School District does not have any money set aside for the construction of the athletic field that Rojas promised. In fact, Blazej claims that the School District has an agreement with the SF Recreation and Parks Department wherein the School District will provide the land and Rec Park will provide the funds to build an artificial field with lights at the 20th and Harrison Street site - approximately \$900,000.

As a member of the Ground Sports Advisory Committee, I am not aware of the existence of the agreement that Blazej alludes to. However, I would support the use of City funds to build the proposed field provided that what the community gets is an artificial field with a full blown drainage system, field lights, and a memorandum of agreement that clearly describes the hours during which City residents other than SFUSD students will have use of the field.

Franklin Field fiasco

In December 1998, under siege by 200 angry soccer enthusiasts, the Citizens Open Space Advisory Committee recommended among other things that the City spend \$250,000 to fund construction of a bathroom at Franklin Field (at 17th and Bryant). But, at their final meeting on February 9, 1999, the Committee broke their promise and deleted the money for the bathroom from their recommendations. In a neighborhood that could easily put ten full size soccer fields to good use, to date, San Francisco's park planners and Commissioners have installed one regulation soccer field (full of holes) with no bathroom.



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Letters to the Editor

Satanic vs. Editor,

It was a pleasant surprise to find the lone right-wing voice of Silicon Satan in your newspaper, presumably a sign of your laudable commitment to presenting a diversity of voices. I wanted, however, to remind Mr. Satan that there are reasons other than jealousy or socialism behind wanting to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of the Mission.

Mr. Satan's objection to the idea that people have the right to live wherever they want, whether they can afford it, is well taken. His Starbucks-smitten, uberYuppie perspective, however, strikes me as sadly blind to the loss of color, flavor, sight and sound that would follow a mass migration to Daly City of everyone but his economic and social peers.

Mr. Satan also makes the mistake of attributing the success of chains like Starbucks and Rite-Aid to simply superior quality at a lower price. What needs to be said is that the questionable quality of the products and services offered at the chains comes at a lower price because of the greater capital of their parent companies, often located in another state. Thus, local small business, which offer a diverse choice of products often superior to the chains, and whose owners' profits are spent locally, come to disappear in the face of the superior financial resources of the non-local corporate parents.

Now, a chain may come into the Mission and provide much in the way of jobs and financial contributions to the community. And the well to do can't be blamed for their desire to live in a vital, exciting neighborhood with superior weather. But save me from the "blind market forces" fantasies of Mr. Satan.

Charlie Malarkey

A good place to chill Editor,

For those among us who sporadically or often pine for the flavor and form of some typical delicacies from the old country, there is a place in the Mission to satisfy our cravings.

"Chile Lindo" is the name of such a place and it is located on 16th Street, between South Van Ness and Mission. You don't have to be Chilean or have been in

Chile at one time or another to enjoy the delicious *empanadas* or the equally good *Barros Luca* or *Barros Jarpa*, sandwiches named, not after salsa groups, but after two ex-Chilean presidents (not *that* one).

These are some of the many goodies prepared on the spot by the young, dynamic and charming couple who own and operate the place. If you want to partake of good food and good conversation in a warm atmosphere, Chile Lindo is the place to go. You'll like it. I guarantee it.

¡Buen provecho!

Edgar Lihn

State of the Union Editor,

I am writing in response to Andy Solow's diatribe against me in the February 1999 issue of *New Mission News*. Mr. Solow stated that Tali Woodward's article in the *S.F. Bay Guardian* contained a "litany of errors, omissions, and what appear to be intentional misstatements." Mr. Solow quotes Rodney Reclus as stating that:

• "Auditors have been unable to account for disbursement and deposits for thousands of dollars received by Local 4."

• "Individuals have complained about paying Lucho as much as \$1700 to become members, but there has been no record of their membership or the payments."

• "At least \$40,000 of Local 4's money is missing or unaccounted for."

With regard to the first statement, in March 1998 I requested that the accounting firm Levy & Henderson conduct an audit of Local 4's finances. I particularly sought an analysis of accounting, back dues, and per capita tax being paid to the International. The accounting firm responded with a breakdown of the work that would be needed to be done. *

I submitted my concerns about the finances of Local 4 to the International, and in September 1998, then General President Michael Monroe responded, requesting an auditor to investigate Local 4's records. His request came the day after Local 4 was burglarized on September 14, 1998. The union again was burglarized on December 19, 1998 - in both instances Local 4's office was the only office in the building that was burglarized. The only item stolen was a computer (a portion of which was taken during each burglary).

In October 1998, the secretary of DC 8, Rosa Benites, told the auditor not to complete his report. When the auditor, Robert Henderson, informed me of this I told him it was imperative for him to com-

plete the report and to submit it immediately.

With regard to the accusation that I had people pay me to become members, this is a blatant fabrication. Reclus says there is no record of these payments or of membership. But he puts it out as fact saying some unnamed individuals have told him so.

Since my election to Financial Secretary, I repeatedly informed the International of problems at the union: the failure of the former secretary of Local 4 to record individuals as members; the failure to collect dues; the failure of contractors to contribute the full amount of workers hours to the Trust Funds that contribute to their health and pension benefits. The International responded by suspending me, without specifying what "apparent errors, discrepancies or misconduct" they had received in a "preliminary report." I never received a copy of this report, nor do I know who issued it. Mr. Solow said the International suspended me for "allegedly pilfering the union treasury." Those are Mr. Solow's words; the International did not state this in its letter.

In fact, DC 8 has tried to remove me from office since my election. They have filed petty charges against me - e.g., objecting to my firing of Local 4's staff secretary who refused to carry out her duties and created a morass of unprocessed membership applications and a backlog of activity and other reports. Finally, they have sought to charge me with financial malfeasance. DC 8 officials have had access to the records and money of the union. Twice after my election I had to change the combination of the safe because money was missing.

• Reclus is quoted as saying that the California Employment Development Department is investigating my receipt of unemployment benefit checks for a member in prison, Reginald Smith. This member asked me to open an account for him since he was unable to do so for himself. I asked the bookkeeper of Local 4 to open an account for him and instead she deposited Smith's checks into the union account. My attorney informed DC 8's attorney of this matter.

• Mr. Solow states that 64% of Local 4's members are Latinos and African Americans. That is due to the doubling in size of the union since I was elected. I have encouraged and helped anyone who wished to join the union. In the past, Latinos that could not speak English had difficulty joining the union.

Recently, Jerry Melton told a Latino who came to join the union that he should not be there if he could not speak English. Members have complained about discrimination.

• Mr. Solow lists three Latinos and one African American, Charles Hall, as having held leadership positions. He fails to mention that Charles Hall was forced out of the union on charges similar to those that have been brought against me. Jerry Melton had a role in his removal. J.J. Cabezed was also financial secretary, but he could not speak Spanish. The other two Latinos cited, Ramon Rodriguez and Pete Garcia, held the position of president, which has no authority to run the union.

• Melton is quoted as saying that DC 8 hired two new organizers. In fact, DC 8 appointed two people to organizing positions rather than opening the positions to the members to apply for.

• Melton is quoted as saying that there were 1,231 members of Local 4 when I was elected Financial Secretary in July 1997 and that there are now 1,260. However, Melton wrote in the September 1998 issue of *The Voice of Painters District Council 8* under "Melton's Memos," that Local 4 was nearing 2,000 members. That was five months ago. While I was Financial Secretary over half a dozen people joined the union every week.

It has been difficult to assess the total number of members as the previous staff secretary did not record new members and numerous membership forms were found buried in her desk. The secretary also told members they did not need to pay dues and failed to follow up when they were delinquent.

In March 1998, I sent letters to 500 members who were overdue as much as one year in paying their membership dues. I informed them if they did not send in their dues, they would lose their membership. Within two weeks, Local 4 received nearly \$100,000 in overdue dues.

• Melton is quoted as saying I was tried by rank and file members. In fact, the individuals at the hearing to consider charges against me were the officials of DC 8, the Executive Board of Local 4 and two members of local 83, one of whom had threatened me in the past.

• And again turning truth on its head, Melton is quoted as saying that I assaulted him. In fact, Melton knocked me to the ground. The seven witnesses he mentioned could attest to this fact. Two of them took me to the police station so I could file a report. I also received therapy for my back, which was injured when I struck the ground.

Mr. Solow has continued DC 8's history of slander.

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*By the way, this is an early, groundbreaking German feminist classic.

Silicon Satan



You call that art?

One of the most positive developments on the Mission art scene last year was the Cort family's courageous decision to paint over that garish monstrosity, the so-called "Lilli Ann Mural," that for all too long had defaced the Triangle Building at 17th and Harrison. Now that this eyesore has received the treatment it deserved, we can only hope that this will inspire property owners throughout the Mission to clean up the urban blight that is often called mural "art." After all, what distinguishes murals - obnoxious scrawlings and daubings on other people's property - from graffiti?

The only difference that comes to mind is that at least the graffiti artist shares, in an albeit primitive way, some of the values of our capitalist system: he is after all an individual who is trying to raise his profile and gain name recognition. Muralists, on the other hand, are for the most part motivated by tired, leftist political agendas that have long since ceased to have any relevance in the world — certainly not in a hip, future-positive community like today's Mission District.

Now, I expect that one or two of you out there might disagree with me. If you were to engage me in conversation, I'd also expect that you would try to convince me that those amateurish paint-sloppings in Balmy Alley, Clarion Alley and elsewhere have just as much artistic value as, say, the wonderful Jackson Pollocks and Diebenkorns that one is privileged to see at MOMA. Of course you would be wrong

— but it is, after all, your right to be wrong. However, what our little disagreement on esthetics would illustrate is that it is very difficult, even impossible, to reach consensus on what is art and what is not, and likewise on who is an artist and who is not. Ultimately it is a matter of opinion.

So it is a testament to the overweening arrogance of the Mission's self-appointed activist elite, that they are so quick to impose their esthetic prejudices on the rest of us, so confident that they alone are qualified to say who is an artist and who is not. I am, of course, referring to their frequent complaint about the many wonderful new live/work loft communities that are revitalizing our neighborhood: that these lofts are not being inhabited by the "real artists" for whom they were originally intended, but by "high-tech Yuppies."

Yet, consider for a moment, who the "real artists" are. Are they the scuzzy, bike-riding losers one normally associates with the Mission arts scene: living off the beneficence of the state (or their parents) and inflicting their worthless productions on the patrons of coffee shops and taquerias because no real downtown gallery would ever accept them? Or rather, are the "real artists" those countless young professionals who steer their SUVs, BMWs and Lexuses through the busy commute to Silicon Valley each day with steely determination, to sculpt and paint the future — not out of clay or oils, but out of business plans, computer code and sheer, unalloyed vision?

Miracle Mile Makers

MISSION MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION



Photos by Gary Stenger



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Bi-Rite Market is located at 3639 18th Street @ Guerrero and open Monday to Friday 10-9, Saturday 9-8 and Sunday 9-7. Call 415/ 241-9760.

The many loyal patients of Dr. Michael Matthews will be glad to hear that after the destruction of his previous offices in a fire several months ago, he is re-opening his optometry practice on March 18. Perhaps the best thing about the new offices is the charming manager, Nina Pellegri. Nina has made sure that, in addition to a full range of optometric services, the new location will have the largest selection of Italian sunglasses this side of Naples. It's always nice to welcome back an old friend and reassuring that as the Mission changes those providing quality services stay with us.

Dr. Michael S. Mathews, Optometrist will be re-opening at 2540 Mission Street. Hours will be Monday to Friday 9 to 5:30 and Saturdays 9 to 4. Call 415/ 282-4544.

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Carnaval Countdown

Monica Conrady

By Monica Conrady

March is the month when San Francisco's Carnaval season really starts to get going.

Kicking things off in grand style was the Friends of Brazil annual Carnaval Ball held at the Galleria on Valentine's weekend. The weather was lousy but that didn't keep Carnaval fans at home. Top of the bill, keeping the energy level at boiling point, was SensaSSamba, one of Brazil's hottest bands. Singer Lisa Silva was in great form, as were the Aquarela dancers, who sported tiny, tight skirts and long, flying braids. Meanwhile, at Bahia Cabana on Market Street, Samba de Coracao, Fogo Na Roupa and the Birds of Paradise dancers got the spirit of carnaval going at top speed. If you can't make it to Brazil, these two venues are the next best thing.

As usual, Carnaval San Francisco will be held Memorial Day weekend, May 29 and 30, with the Grand Parade on Sunday. This is Carnaval SF's 20th year - reason indeed to make it bigger and better than ever. The official theme has not as yet been announced.

Every parade needs a king and queen, and ours is no exception. This year's contest will be held at March 21, Sunday, 7pm at the Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Avenue, in Berkeley. \$5 at the door. Come and cheer on this year's hopefuls as they go through their paces. Or better still, have a go yourself. You have nothing to lose but your inhibitions! Besides getting to ride on the King and Queen Float and wearing really great costumes, this year's winners will receive a cash prize of \$500 each. Not too shabby. Contestants must be over 18, in costume and prepared to perform on

stage. Information: 415/826-1401.

Now is the time to get those hips moving and toes tapping. It takes stamina to dance the length of the parade route so it's never too soon to get started on some stamina-building routines. Besides, getting ready for Carnaval is half the fun. The following is a preliminary roundup of some of the dance classes available in the Bay Area.

Aquarela, with Maria Sousa, is planning a Salvador-style Carnaval this year. Dance classes are held Mondays, 7:30 - 9pm, at Finnish Hall, 1819 10th Street in Berkeley and on Fridays at Funk Works, 5515 Doyle Drive in Emeryville. Information: 510/548-1310.

Fogo Na Roupa, celebrating their 10th anniversary this year, holds classes Saturdays, 1 - 3pm, and Tuesdays, 8 - 9:30pm, at the Mission Cultural Center here in the city. Also on Sundays at CitiCentre Dance Theatre, in Oakland. There's a dance party planned for March - date to be announced. Call the Fogo Hotline: 510/451-1230.

Samba do Coracao with Mary Dollar, has classes at 50 Brady Street, in San Francisco. Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30pm, for percussion and 7:30 - 9pm for dance with live drumming during both classes. A Saturday class is also offered from, 1 - 2:30pm. Information: 415/826-2588.

Escola Nova de Samba, with Josephine Morada. Classes start in March at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, on Cortland Street. Thursdays, 7:30 - 9pm and additional weekend rehearsals will be added. Stay tuned. Contact: 415/661-4798.

MaraREggae, with Rhonda Stagnaro Low, is to be found Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:45 - 9:15pm, and Saturdays, 10 - 11:30am, at the Rhythm and Motion Studio, 1133 Mission Street, here in the city. Information: 415/621-0643.

Abada Capoeira, at 2376 Mission Street, holds samba classes on Thursdays,



7:30 - 9pm, with Anna Laidley, and Afro-brazilian dance classes on Saturdays, 4:30 - 6pm, with Tania Santiago. Live percussion at all classes. Information: 415/284-6196.

Sambao is a peninsula-based Rio-style samba school. General rehearsals start March 6, Saturday, from 3 to 5pm, and continue every Saturday until the end of May. Classes are held at the Boys and Girls Club of Redwood City. For information call 408/558-1223 or 510/490-7266.

This list is just a teeny offering of what's available out there. Check this space next month for more class listings, plus news of dance parties, fundraisers and outdoor rehearsals.

Since last November, Jose Francisco Barroso has been presenting an eight-session Orisha Culture Series at La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley. Each month a

different Orisha is celebrated with songs, rhythms and dances and a discussion of that particular Orisha's distinctive characteristics. The event is held the second Sunday of the month from 7 to 9 pm. Tickets are \$10. There's still four sessions left to go so you might want to check them out. They're very popular. Information: 510/849-2568.

Another event at La Peña that had the place packed to the rafters was Ramon Ramos' evening of Cuban dance, "Añoranza de una Epoca." Ramon and his dancers demonstrated the dances of Cuba through the ages - from Son, Danzon, and Son Montuno through to Rumba, the Cha Cha Cha, Casino and finally Salsa Rueda. It was dynamite. There'll be another show on Saturday, April 17, at the Mission Cultural Center here in the city. Information: 415/821-1155.

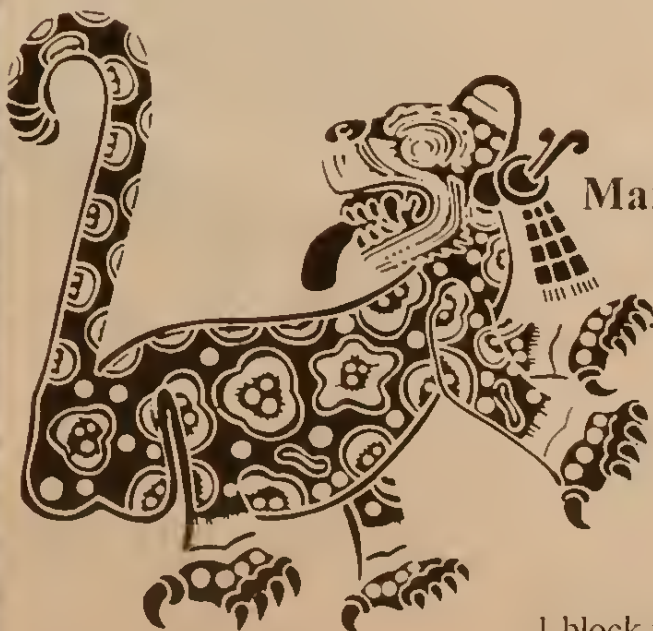
Ciao! Until next month.

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Mission District Calendar



MARCH

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4

THURSDAY

10 Naked Men – Theater Rhinoceros, catering to SF's inordinate to see naked men, has extended the run of this off-Broadway comedy about prostitution in Hollywood until March 28. Wed-Fri 8 pm, Sat 5pm & 8 pm, Sun 3pm & 8 pm. \$20-25. At Theater Rhinoceros, 16th and Mission. 861-5079.

Learn Economics – Modern Times presents "Doug Dowd: New Directions in Economics and Policy." Doug leads a free class held the first Thursday of every month now through October. The first half deals with real world economics and important economic thinkers, the second with policy and responsibility. 7 pm at Modern Times bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

5

FRIDAY

Beers, Steers and Queers – "The Catch" a hilarious look at queers, beers, football, and butt-slapping. A new short film from Heidi Ellis, the director who brought you the movie that defined a generation, "Bike Messenger Boy." Press screening and fundraiser, 8-11 pm. ATA, 992 Valencia St. \$5, free food.

Educating Rita – The Actor's Collective stages a "colorful look at this blooming flower." We can only assume they mean the script. Fri/Sat through March 20. 8:30 pm. \$10-12. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

University Dance Concert – Choreography by students and faculty of SF State, City College, Hayward State, Stanford and more. Fri/Sat. 8 pm, \$5-8. 3221 22d St. 824-5044.

Poets Know It – Tureeda Mikell & Gene Howell will daze and amaze by reading at Cate Multicultural Valencia. Clothing required to get a seat. 9pm. Free! 1109 Valencia. 824-7659.

6

SATURDAY

Free Self Defense Class – SF Women Against Rape is offering two free self-defense classes

for women with disabilities. Today, March 20 and March 27. The classes are 10 hours. For more info and to register call 861-2024.

Justice for Mumia – While it looks like "Justice for Mumia" is a functional oxymoron at this point, this weekend's "Justice for Mumia" conference at UC Berkeley uses the struggle to unite people around human rights issues. Weekend workshops range from "The Death Penalty & Racism" to "Hip-Hop Resistance." 9 am, UC Berkeley Pauley Ballroom. 821-0459.

Balkans in the House – Watch out for The Hot Flying Plates and other extravagant musical art at the Atlas Calé's Balkan night. Rippin it up at this venue is The Gonifs, San Francisco's premier klezmer band featuring special guests. 4-7 pm, no cover. 3049 20th St. at Alabama. 648-1047.

From Political to Poetical – From creating art around any and every issue, artist Stanley Migas has made a major shift to a more...well, aesthetics-based aesthetic. Check out the transformation of his paintings, sculptures and prints at the Gallery Luscombe. Reception today; featuring rock n'roll by The Audience. 3-9 pm. Through March 2. 24th/Treat. 285-8545.

Live/Work Community Meeting – Live/Work spaces have been squeezing out family dwellings for years now in the Mission, and the development only gets more intense as the months go on. Come to this meeting about these developments at Centro del Pueblo, 474 Valencia. 10 am-Noon. 864-6432.

7

SUNDAY

Storytime for Children – Children ages 4-8 will enjoy stories from children's books about gardening out at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park. If you're too tired to pick up a book, plant your toddler for an hour in field of story-hungry kids. "Plant Stories from the Indigenous People of North and South America" is this month's theme. Sundays throughout March. Story at 10:30 am, walk at 11 am. Free. 9th Ave at Lincoln. 661-1316 x303.

Emergency Care for Pets – If you want to reenact a real-life Wild Kingdom/ER show in your living room, take the SPCA's first Aid for Animals course. Pet CPR, choking rescue, splinting bones and more. So you can handle it when nature attacks nature. \$40, 10 am-3 pm. 800-637-PETS.

8

MONDAY

African-Americans and the Global Economy – Nelson Peery, author of *Black Fire: Making of an American Revolutionary*, speaks at New College on "African-American History and the Global Economy: From Racial Division to Class Unity." Pondering the connection? Defer to the experts. We do. Presented by the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. Also poetry by QR Hand, September Rose and Tony Robles. 7:30 pm, 766 Valencia. \$3-5 donation, no one turned away.

10

WEDNESDAY

Get Hip to Hep C – It's no fun, and it's not curable, but there is preventative support for Hepatitis C. Dr. Norah Terrault, Asst. Professor of Medicine at UCSF, speaks on Hep C, current treatment research, and a UCSF sexual transmission study at Davies Medical Center, Castro and Duboce. North Tower, Conference room B2/3. Free. 6:30 pm. Also March 24.

We Are Experiencing Weather – Not to be confused with the nouveau jazz group of the 70s and 80s, "Weather Report" at Venue 9 means a spoken word/musical performance written by Patti Trimble. Judging from the preponderance of spoken word/dance/music performance this month, the forecast for exploratory performance looks pretty dum good, if a little heavy. 8 pm. \$6-10. 252 9th St. 289-2000.

11

THURSDAY

Single Black Female – Like a bad blind date who keeps calling, we never seem to tire of prodding the open wound of urban dating in the nineties. Dramatist Lisa B. Thompson's latest take on the insanity is a rapid-fire play exploring what-all we go through looking for that suitable—if short-term—companion. Through April 10. Previews tonight and tomorrow, opens Saturday. 8 pm, Sunday matinee at 3pm. 2926 16th. 861-5079.

Read to Kids Today – Open a Book and Open a Mind: spend an hour today reading to SF public schoolchildren, anytime between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm. No skills needed, just you, a love of books and an hour to spare. Read Aloud Day will hook you up with a school and classroom. Call 274-0250.

12

FRIDAY

Gay Cuba – The indomitable Venceremos Brigade presents a March Film series on Cuba. Tonight's offering promises a perspective of the gay community in Cuba, their history, rights and struggles. Cuz yes, communists can be queer. 7 pm. \$3-5 sliding scale. At the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 821-1155.

Year of the Pig – If you believe Marxist documentary filmmaker Emile de Antonio, 1969 was actually year of the Pig. Tonight's film, "In the

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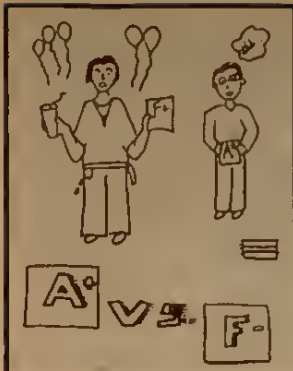
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SCHOOL: Obligation or Opportunity?

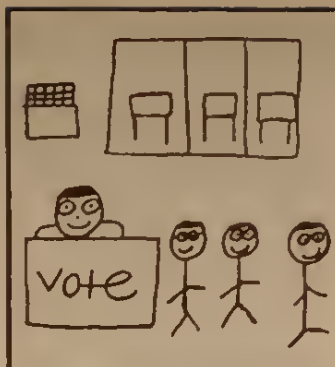
Page A3

This Edition's Theme: "Student Rights and Responsibilities"

Register to
vote!

It can make
a difference.

Page A2



LISTEN UP!!!

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ACADEMY AND ITS COMMUNITY

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

SPRING 1999

FREE

Coming Together to Help the Victims of Hurricane Mitch

by Michelle Jones
ISA student

Hurricane Mitch was the fourth strongest hurricane recorded on the Atlantic Basin. Hurricane Mitch caused a tragically high death toll and catastrophic flooding in Central America.

At ISA, teachers and students came together to form a food, clothes, and money drive. Mr. Gomez, Ms. Pastor, Ms. Tom, and Ms. Beebalar asked students, parents, and faculty to

donate anything they could to help the Hurricane Mitch victims.

The drive did really well. Our school raised almost \$300, a huge can of clothes, and a half a barrel of food. These donations were sent to the Red Cross and then transferred to the victims. Some of the food was sent to our sister school in Nicaragua. There were so many clothes, that all of them could not be transferred,

so half of them were sent to Saint Anthony's and other foundations that help the homeless in San Francisco.



Molly Salyer

Social Action: Is it Worth it?

by Rebecca Garcia
ISA student

As a requirement for our American Democracy class each student had to volunteer at least 6-hours of their time to a non-profit organization for a social action project. This was more than just a 6 hour requirement, it was something that would make us realize that there are many problems that our society faces and that there are people who are trying to help the cause.

Social action is not the same thing as just volunteering. Social action is when someone goes into the community and helps change it in a good way. This project was a very hard one since we really didn't know what we were going to go do at these organizations. There are many benefits to joining an organization and helping them achieve their goals. It depends on what type of work you want to do and how you would like to do it.

I joined Youth Making A Change at Coleman Advocates. Y-MAC's goals are to protect youth and to teach them about the many dangers that are out there in our society. The main goal is to get the community involved.

I volunteered there by helping organize their library and spending some time in a local grocery store.

While helping people bag their groceries at the store we distributed fliers and donation envelopes. Most people took them and told us they were very impressed with our work and our ability to do such a project. Many people were really amazed when they found out that we were students helping



Ms. Foster's Government class working hard setting goals.

out in the community. We explained to them why we were doing it and they congratulated us and told us to keep up the good work. It feels good to know we made a good impression and made many people realize that not all teens are bad.

Social action has many benefits, but one of the best is

by Emma Martinez
ISA student

We teenagers have the right and responsibility to express our opinions regarding how money is being spent and what happens in our schools. On October 1, 1998 we used rights of free speech, expression, and assembly when we walked out of school for something that we believe is wrong.

California is building more prisons than schools. In the past 10 years, California has built 19 prisons and only one university. Prison guards make \$42,000 per year, while teachers with credentials make only \$27,000. Now there is a California proposition to try youths as adults for crimes. We don't agree with this and we feel we should do something about it.

when your day is finished and you feel a great accomplishment inside. You feel that you have made a change for the better and have given older people a good impression of what most teens are about. Social action is worth a lot to some and to others it is just another thing that is out there to help people. But by giving at least one hour a day, or maybe 3 hours a week, you will make a big impression on the community and you will be feeling good about yourself.

What we accomplished that day might not seem like a lot to many of the people we talked to, but to us it lets us know that at least some people are interested in what we do. It lets us know that some people actually care and that we should keep on helping out society. In the end, the time you take out of your normal routine will seem worth it to you and will help you understand how hard it really is to make a change in someone's life or way of living.

Bay Area Students Walk Out

Many students from San Francisco walked out of school and took the BART to

San Leandro where we joined students from all over the Bay Area. At the joining of the schools there were a couple of fights. A participant from the walkout states "This was a serious issue. How are people supposed to take us seriously when we're fighting among each other?"

We walked to a police station, while chanting "More Schools! Not Prisons!" and other encouraging chants.

All who participated agreed that the purpose of the walkout was valid, but "people shouldn't use these types of activities just to get out of

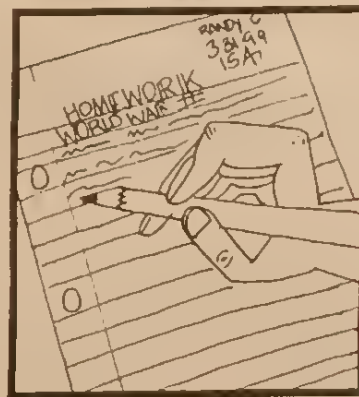
school. The only way youth opinions are going to be heard is if we start taking things seriously."



Photo by:
Rosa Mana

Teens Should Know and Act on Responsibilities

by Susana Vargas
ISA student



Randy Cortez

Do teens know their responsibilities? Well, it depends on where the responsibilities take place. If we are talking about school responsibilities, I think they do. Students should know their responsibilities at school. They should know that they have to come to school on time, do their homework, and turn their classwork in on time.

The "good" students are those who know their responsibilities and have good grades.

The students who don't know their responsibilities are the ones who don't do their homework and do the opposite of the students who get good grades. These are the people that don't seem to care about make-up work. They are the one's who get bad grades.

I think students should know their responsibilities by now. They are in middle school or high school and should know better. Some students know their responsibilities, but don't act on them. Knowing what you are responsible for in school is the first step to doing well.



Busara Pinpong

A Time for Volunteering



Photo: Viravanh Phoulavanh

What will be the fate of Newcomer High School?

by Zhi Cong Liang
ISA student

It's the 14th week of this semester.. I have been working on a social action project for the past two weeks. I did this project in order to comprehend what is really going on outside in our society. So, I went to Newcomer High School, which was the first school I attended in the U.S.

Many People in California know that Proposition 227 passed and became law in the educational system. It forced the whole state to implement English-only education in the classroom. In addition, San Francisco Unifies School District wanted to close Newcomer High, a school with an entirely immigrant population, and tried to turn the building into an elementary school. This plan failed because of the anti-227 voices from immigrant groups

and parents. The school district did not totally give up and some people think they are still trying hard to close the school.

Newcomer High's staff are trying very hard to keep the school open and to fix the problem. Newcomer is not a normal high school. It represents bilingual education and the rights of immigrants in the U.S. I believe, prop 227 was anti-immigrant discrimination, a sign of racism. The way Newcomer tried to fix the problem was to prove that bilingual education is better for immigrant students than other types of education systems. This is also the only way to face the pressure from society and survive.

My job there was to be a teacher's assistant in an after school program. In that bilingual class there were twenty Chinese 9th and 10th graders. Every day the students stayed

after school in a certain classroom to make up lessons and class work they didn't understand. I helped them to understand the meaning of homework questions and I showed them, in their native language, how to do their work. By tutoring these students, I made it easier for them to understand, which helped them improve their grades. I felt happy with my participation in the class. The higher the scores immigrant students got, the more proof I had to support bilingual education.

I also felt very satisfied because I made a contribution to the school. I felt happiness from the heart because I offered my best efforts to get more rights for people. I have participated in a small battle to help Newcomer High School, and indirectly fought for democracy, the bigger battle.

Have Faith in Everything You Do

by Lilian Montezuma
ISA student

Oseas Rodriguez was born in Guatemala. He was only 20 years old when he came to the U.S. Oseas escaped from Guatemala because at the time guerrillas were killing a lot of people for no reason. Some parents had to send their teenage sons to the military bases and they were never allowed to see them again. A lot of teenagers decided to escape and emigrate to different countries. Oseas decided to come to the U.S. When he came to this country he thought that he was going to find an easy job, but he went to Bakersfield, California and there he started to work as a farm worker.

I wasn't used to working as a farmer. I used to work installing glass, not in the fields. I worked in Bakersfield for 4 months and then I moved to San Francisco. I always found life in the U.S. different from Guatemala. First I saw that here there is always respect for the old people, and the buses always, or

most of the time, wait for you. In Guatemala they never wait for you and there is no respect for the people.

I didn't have papers or a green card. I was afraid that immigration would deport me to Guatemala.

I am discriminated against. As al-

"American people think I'm Mexican because of my skin color or because I'm Latino. Latinos come from many different countries."

ways, American people think I'm Mexican because of my skin color or because I'm Latino. Latinos come from many different countries. At that time, I didn't speak English and that was another reason that I was discriminated against. Now I speak English and I do tell the gringos not to call me Mexican because I'm not Mexican and it really pisses me off. I also ask gringos why they discriminate against all Latinos? Why do we always get to do the hardest jobs?

I left my family in Guatemala--my parents, my brothers and sisters. It was really hard for me to move to the U.S. without them. I left my country and I really miss it,

but I don't plan to go back to stay. I just plan to go back and visit my family in Guatemala. I'm married and I have two children. One is 8 and the other is 6 years old. This is the first time somebody has interviewed me on this topic and I'm glad that it was in Spanish.

It was really a sad life when Oseas was 20 years old and a tragedy. I never knew that this happened to him. Interviewing Oseas was really helpful for me because it taught me to always have faith in everything you do.



Tsega Habtemariam

Registering Voters Strengthens Community

by Qing Ping Huo
ISA student

The Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) is an organization to improve Chinese community. CPA wants to raise the rate of Chinese participation in elections. I volunteered to help people to register to vote. Many Chinese Americans are apathetic about political activity, but the role that Chinese people play in elections is more and more important today.

For example, Matt Fong ran for senator and Mabel Teng ran for supervisor. These Chinese candidates need help from the people, so it is time for us to make the change.

To fix this problem, CPA organized Vote for 2000 to help people register to vote. We set up tables at the corner of the street and helped people fill out the registration forms right there. Then we brought the forms to the election department. Usually, we got about 200 forms finished each day.

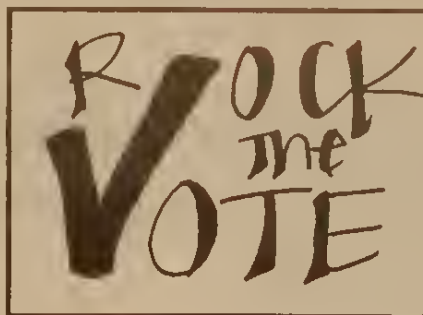
Our leader David, told us that the reason the Chinese are apathetic about voting is discrimination. As a minority, Chinese are always discriminated

against. They do not have the rights that they should have. The goal of Vote for 2000 in the short term is to raise the rate of voting. Our long-term goal is to strengthen Chinese political power and take the rights that

we should have. CPA organizes people to work together to make a more effective influence and change than individuals can do alone. In

the early 1900's, Chinese had little political power. They were ordered to live in a certain area only, where Chinatown is today. Today, we have many organizations like CPA that work hard to improve our community.

Most "community service" can solve a problem temporarily and reach a goal in the short term. But "social action" solves the root of the problem and it takes a long time. Through my social action, I learned the process of election and the way an organization works. Social action is a good experience because it teaches me knowledge that I can't learn from a textbook.



Viravanh Phoulavanh

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Can Youth Make a Difference in Politics?

by Michelle Jones
ISA student

I think youth have not yet made a deep impact on politics, but we're in the process of making a difference. We are finding that our voices are being heard more than before. Organizations like Youth Making a Change (Y-MAC), Chinese Progressive Association, Health Initiatives for Youth, Youth Speaks, The Third Eye Movement, Project Ahead, and many others let youth have a say in what is going on in the world today.

Youth making a difference in politics is definitely an option. We have so much to say and so many different ways of expressing it that it is hard for adults to understand. All youth want is to be heard. It is just hard to get our points across. With all these different or-

We have so much to say and so many different ways of expressing it...All youth want is to be heard.

ganizations backing us up, it makes it easier to go out into the world and voice opinions. Dahlia, one of the students who worked at Y-MAC with me, states, "Working with Y-MAC I realized that youth can make a difference if they work together as a team. We run the organization with the help of some adults that believe in youth rights and youth making a change."

These days, youth can participate in voting, which I think is a pretty good step for making a change in politics. In my American Democracy class, we participated in Youth Vote '98, which was a great experience. I liked knowing about the different candidates and what their goals were. I really liked the fact that I had a chance to provide input on who would be the leaders of our city and country.

Youth also participate in publishing newspapers, which is a good step for making a change in politics. My American Democracy class publishes *Listen Up!* Our class wrote articles about what we think about

certain subjects and what is important to us.

The newspaper gets out to thousands of people around the city who read these articles and sometimes are willing to help youth strive to make change in society.

Nothing comes easily in this world, but what we youth have accomplished so far is great and it will continue to improve over the years. I think youth will be very effective in society with the help of our voices.

Youth Rights and Opportunity in Education

by Van Vicky Huang
ISA student

You better study for your future right now, lady! Youth in America have many rights and opportunities in education. Why don't you use this time wisely? Remember...no one in this house is gonna take care of you after you turn 18. okay!



Alex Ye and Geneva Jones
studying together.

My mom always yelled at me whenever I was too lazy to do my homework. This used to hurt me a lot. I felt like she was raising me just because it was her responsibility and she probably didn't love me at all. As time went by, I grew up and learned many things. I figured out that my mom was right. Youth have a right to go to school and study for their future. Why don't I use my time wisely and

prepare for my own future? It's hard to get a good job without an education.

Most public education is free. This is a good opportunity for youth to improve themselves. Parents do not have to worry about paying for their kids' schooling. I remember, in Vietnam, I had to pay to go to school and it took one-third of my mom's paycheck. There were

America have the *right* to go to school, but it is their *responsibility* to attend during school hours. California law does not allow children to work because the government wants them to focus on their studies. Some kids still want to help their families economically, however youth must show their employers a work permit signed by their parents.

Youth also have the right to choose a college major. No one can force us to take a major we might not like. High schools can give up to 60 credits for elective classes. It's cool because students can begin their career in high school.

"But I think," Susan said sadly, "if youths have too many rights and opportunities they can forget their responsibilities. They cut school, don't participate in class, and don't do their homework. Van, I was one of them so I know. I wish I used that time wisely."

I agree with Susan on some points, but when students sometimes go to school without their homework, it does not always mean they don't want to do it. Maybe the homework is just too hard. Or maybe they have to babysit their sisters or brothers. Maybe they work part-time after school to earn money for their family. These are responsibilities that can cause a student problems with their studies.

Everyone in the world wishes to have a wonderful future. In order to reach your goal, you better use your youth rights wisely. *Good luck!*

Let's Prove the Haters Wrong

by Carolina Miranda
ISA student

There are many problems in society that youth encounter. Helping the society we live in ensures a better future. It feels good when you make a difference in someone's life. Social action is a good experience that has taught me many new things.

At the Mission YMCA I participated in a program that involved adolescents. Our group's goal was to create a presentation to show some of the dangers that youth have unfortunately been innocently involved in.

We brainstormed about some of the problems that adolescents go through, like date rape, drugs, and gang violence. These are just a few. We decided to concentrate on date rape. One very eager and intelligent member suggested we plan a skit and produce a video.

We developed a short script that tried to make the problem realistic. The skit was about a young girl who met a guy and got a ride from him. He then took her to a parking lot and raped her. She deals with the problem by trying to commit suicide.

This is a perfect example of how one problem can lead to other greater problems. We need to teach kids how to deal with their problems, not shut them out. It is all about

growing up. By informing kids we hopefully help them to take precautions.

To all the youth out there, just think about it. You can make a difference in life. Sometimes we are looked upon as delinquents just because of our age and because we want to kick-it. Now is the time! Let's prove all the haters wrong. We can do anything in life because life is what you make it. Let's take action!



Photo: Ashraf Ali

Beto de Leon, Carolina Miranda and Cindy Manriquez chillin' at lunch.

Language is Power!

by Yi (Eve) He
ISA student

"Language is Power" is a coalition to protect, preserve, and promote multilingual, multicultural quality education for all children. Members of the coalition work together to minimize the harm caused by Proposition 227 to limited English speaking students and immigrant kids labeled as English as a Second Language (ESL).

Since Prop 227 passed, students who were taught in bilingual classes will be enrolled in courses which *only* offer English teaching. As a volunteer, I was given a list of school names that hadn't returned consent forms to the district. The consent forms are for parents to request keeping their kids in bilingual educational. When consent forms are sent, the district can offer choices to parents for the best education for their limited English kids.

Many parents are confused about the purpose and requirements of the new forms. I called the principals of each school to answer questions and

offer outreach and parent help. We are committed to helping parents understand the forms and the importance of turning them in. I help when principals say, "Oh, I don't know very much about this. I just gave them out." We raise awareness that it's the responsibility of the school to get all the forms back and do outreach to parents.

Even though the consent forms seem to be only a kind of rescue to reduce the impact of Prop 227, it's a way to help lim-

ited English Students to get through their embarrassing periods. As one of these ESL students, I feel good about doing this for our education. Besides, I've learned some skills of social outreach and general ideas about how non-profit organizations work and it makes me feel teens can really do something for society and our futures.

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OSOM inspires and teaches students to mobilize community action on behalf of their schools.

His American Dream

by Fen Ping Huang,
ISA student

I stood in the middle of Portsmouth Square and looked around. My sight was attracted by an old man who was about 70 years old, sitting on a bench and reading a *Sing Dao* newspaper. He looked especially quiet and kind with thick glasses. I came over and introduced myself first. He seemed interested in my school assignment to interview an elderly immigrant. "Sit down please, dear you can interview me, but don't write my name down, OK?" I sat next to him and smiled, "OK, no problem. Let's start the interview."

He recalled 31 years ago when he had just immigrated to the U.S. "I left my country--China for the U.S., because I wanted my children to have a better opportunity to achieve a bright future. I could earn more money and get a better life in the U.S. That was my American dream. Although I experienced hard times, now I've achieved my dream..." He looked happy and satisfied. From his laughter, I thought he was a lucky man. Not every immigrant can achieve his or her dream.

He put his newspaper aside, and went on. "I've found what I expected in the U.S. My son is an engineer and has a high-paying job. My daughter is studying at UC Berkeley for a law degree. We bought a new house last year. Now we live happily. I think I made the right decision to immigrate to the U.S." For him, everything seemed perfect.

"So do you miss your own country-China?" I asked. I thought nothing would upset him any more. He explained, "If I say no, it's not true. I spent half of my life in China. I left my parents back there. As their son, I felt sorry that I couldn't take care of them. Now, they're gone. I

I left my country-China for the U.S., because I wanted my children to have a better opportunity to achieve a bright future.

still remember the days that I lived with them in the brick house in China. I miss those sweet times. Also, I miss my old friends so much. In China, we went to eat breakfast together every day in a restaurant. I hope I will do that again with them when I visit China next time. "When he talked about his parents and friends, I saw tears in his eyes. Maybe he didn't want me to recognize that, so he turned his head to the other side for a while, then faced me with a smiling face again.

"Let me tell you something." He said, "In the U.S. I saw many educated people such as teachers or doctors that I knew in China. Can you guess what they do now?" I shook my head. "They wash dishes in restaurants or work in sewing factories. It really surprises me. They don't know English, so it is hard for them to get into society."

"Are there other things that surprise you?"

"Yes, I am surprised that Black people, White people and other

different colors of skin people can get on well with each other and be good friends, even marry. Now I am used to it already, because my daughter has a boyfriend who is White," the kind man said, however I sensed a little complaining tone in his voice.

"I am not a U.S. citizen. I don't want to be. Why do I have to? I don't need American benefits. I want to be a Chinese citizen," he said. I had nothing to say about it. I respected his opinion. "Are you treated differently as an immigrant?" Maybe it was a tough question. He looked beyond me and thought for a while. "I don't think I am treated differently. I have the same rights as others. I can find a job and earn money, buy a house and car. I live like others--happily. The difference is that I can't speak English, so I can only find a low-paying job. But that's based on my ability, not my race or immigrant status. I don't know about others, but at least I know clearly I am not treated differently as an immigrant." From the way he talked, I knew he was a learned and smart man.

I stood up to say thank you and shake hands with him. Through this interview, I realized when this old immigrant left his homeland for a strange country, he gained something that he wanted, but at the same time, he lost another thing behind. I didn't know his name, but I knew he had an American dream and he has achieved it. I wanted to say to him, "Congratulations."

ISA Faculty Seek your Help! School-Community Classifieds

Call (415) 695-5866 to volunteer or donate materials

VOLUNTEER AT ISA—
Call (415) 695-5866

Tutors and Study Hall Monitors—Community and parent volunteers are needed for English, Math and other subjects after school and during lunch. Please call ISA's main office.

College and Parent Center Volunteers needed. Please call Maria Twyman, PTSA president at (415) 282-4987.

Artists!—Give tours of your workplace for students interested in careers in graphic, digital, and fine arts. Teach workshops on Adobe Illustrator or give sculpture demonstrations. Please call art teacher Tiana Pastor at ISA.

Fundraisers for the Arts to help get artists in the schools. Please call Tiana Pastor.

Volunteers needed to help produce Milestones for the Millenium student calendar (research, photos and

speakers) Please call English teacher Judy Bebelaar.

Printer Repair (or replacement)—Please call Judy Bebelaar at ISA.

DONATE NEEDED MATERIALS—
CALL (415) 695-5866

Books and Art Supplies—8 copies of *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya; 25 copies of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou; 9 copies of *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe; 20 copies of *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton; 16 copies of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*; Art Supplies including markers, poster board and glue sticks. Please call English teacher Michelle Khazai at ISA.

Books—Copies of *Beloved* and *Sula* by Toni Morrison. Please call Judy Bebelaar.

Cables and Mice and Hard Drives, Oh My! Various computer equipment needed.

Classroom Supplies—Pens and pencils, post-its, file folders, etc.

Please call Technology Resource teacher Weston.

Classroom Supplies—Cabinet, pencil sharpener, computers and math software. Please call math teacher Thuy Doan.

Classroom Supplies—Hole punch, PC computer and CD-ROM dictionary. Please call social studies teacher Koby Pakar.

Art Supplies—Light box, art books, Adobe PageMill and Illustrator Software, wrack or shelf for portfolios, drawing paper and canvas, Mac printer, desktop photocopier, still life objects. Please call art teacher Tiana Pastor.

Library Media Center Supplies—Mouse pads, printer cartridges (call for types), colored/white paper of various size and thickness, glue, gluesticks, colored pencils, crayons, felt tip markers, rulers, scissors, bookmarks and small prizes for book contests. Please call Library Media teacher Linda Guitron.

Get Involved!!

Listen Up!'s goal is to increase communication and collaboration between ISA and its community.

YOU can:

- ✉ Write articles or letters to *Listen Up!* (mail or place them in Katy Foster's box in the ISA main office, 693 Vermont St., S.F., CA 94107)
- ✉ Help a teacher to schedule guest speakers or field trips
- ✉ Donate time or equipment to the school to help students achieve
- ✉ Provide money for *Listen Up!* — help subsidize the cost of printing and distributing. Each edition costs approximately \$500. Checks should be payable to "ISA - Listen Up!". Thank you!! (call Katy Foster at 695-5866 for information)
- ✉ Help students lay out the publication — donate your time, skills, and artistic eye! (call 831-6142 for information)
- ✉ Coordinate volunteers interested in working with ISA to improve teaching and learning (call 831-6142 for information)

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Year of the Pig" explores the origin of the US's commitment to the Vietnam War. Do you, like, think the title's, like, got a double meaning man? 8 pm. \$3-6. 701 Mission St. 978-2787.

Poet's Cave - Homie's night with Sarah Menefee & Jorgito Argueta reading at Cafe Multicultural Valencia. Tennis shoes OK. 9pm. Free! 1109 Valencia. 824-7659.

13 SATURDAY

BORDERscape 2000 - In an era when California has become a thriving frontier for the collision of different cultures, "BORDERscape 2000", the third in a performance trilogy by Guillermo Gomez-Pena & Roberto Siluentes, is some of the most happening work around. Catch previews Thurs/Fri, or go to opening night tonight. Runs through March 26. 8:30 pm. At the Magic Theater, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D. \$10-18. 441-8822.

The Venus Hottentot - New Langton Arts opens a play about Saartjie Baartman, "The Venus Hottentot." This is a true story about an African Woman placed on display in 19th century Europe because of her large posterior and "exotic" features. A truly sickening tale in reality; in theater, a fascinating and well-written play. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom St. 8 pm Thursdays thru Sundays through April 11. \$10-15. 565-0331.

14 SUNDAY

International Women's Day - We make up over half the world and all we get is this lousy day? Join the protest at International Male Headquarters. No, but, really: "Stand In Solidarity With the Women of Cuba" is the theme of Radical Women's International Women's Day celebration this year. The event features a panel of leaders from Bay Area's Cuba Solidarity movement. There will also be videos, a Cuban gift raffle, and singing. Spanish translation. Dinner at 5:30 for \$8 donation, celebration begins at 2:30 pm. 1908 Mission St. 864-1278.

15 MONDAY

Beware the Ides of March - This was the day Caesar was stabbed in the back by his trusted senators, and turned to his most dear friend and uttered the heart-breaking line (according to Shakespeare and others) "Et tu, Brute?" (Translation in the next issue.)

16 TUESDAY

Puppet Performance and Panel Discussion - Is it the Iran/Contra hearings again? No. Puppeteer and community art activist Jonathan Yout will discuss "Coordinating Collaboration" and keeping critical in today's pollyanna-ish political puppet market. Or something. Intersection for the Arts. 446 Valencia St. \$3-5, 8 pm. 626-2787.

FAT!SO? - Based on the zine by the same name, Marilyn Wann's book *FAT!SO?* has been making ripples in the overfed flesh of America's last taboo—fat—and doing it with tons of attitude. Weigh her arguments at Wann's reading tonight at Modern Times. As they say, life is too short for self-hatred and celery sticks. 7:30 pm. 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

17 WEDNESDAY

Freestylin into the Millenium - Okay, for a major poetry reading open mike that promises to be off the hook, check out "On the Page, Off the Page" downtown at Koret Auditorium in the Main Library. Diamond Dave Whitaker MCs, Jorge Molina leads off with an invocation (this religious stuff is getting popular in these premillennial times) and Kim Addonizio and Wordwind Chorus are featured readers. 5 pm. Free.

18 THURSDAY

Benefit Dance - Erica Essner Performance Co-Op presents an evening of Bay Area Animators and Dance, highlighting the relationship of dance and animation. The only way to find out is to go. Lots of crazy cool performance and an auction. 60 Brady St. 8:30 pm \$15-25. Reservations 558-9355.

Duality Dance - Let the dancing never end. If the above benefit is out of your price range, check out "Alter Ego: duality dances", an evening of duet and solo dances reflecting split personalities, kindred spirits, Siamese twins and strange unions. IE, life in the city. 3221 22d St. 8 pm. Through March 21. 824-5044.

19 FRIDAY

"America is Hard to See" - Yerba Buena's next movie in the de Antonio series concentrates on the tumultuous year of 1968 and the presidential candidacy of Eugene McCarthy. The movie's reported to reveal an incredible coalition between politics and the young people of the US. Ah, nostalgia. 701 Mission St. \$3-6. 8 pm. 978-2787.

Chaos Theory - Don't expect a detailed theoretical discussion of fractals at choreographer Scott Wells' high-velocity dance piece. But you may see men in tight pants. Though March 27. 8 pm. \$12-15 sliding scale. ODC theater 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Poet's Cave - Another homie's night with Alfonsito Texidor, Rosara Salas & Don Paul reading at Cafe Multicultural Valencia. High heels & spats required to get a seat. 9pm. Free! 1109 Valencia. 824-7659.

20 SATURDAY

Four Shillings Short - Has anybody ever heard of Celtic Fusion? Has anyone ever been at the forefront of a musical trend? Check out the band Four Shillings Short at the Atlas Café this afternoon and you can answer yes to both questions. 4-7 pm. 3049 20th at Alabama. 648-1047.

Salsa In the Mission - Avance's 12-piece multi-spiced salsa ensemble led by world-renowned percussionist Karl Perazzo has crazy good musicianship and vocalists that sing and dance like a Motown review. It's "salsafied R&B fusion." At Roccapulco tonight, 3140 Mission. 821-7559.

Bee Biology - Bees came to SF with the first gentros (read, Europeans) and are now important pollinators for the city's flower and vegetable gardens. Learn how to beekeep in an urban setting at the Randall Museum. \$25. 10 am-4 pm, Sunday 10 am-1 pm. 554-9600.

2 THURSDAY

San Francisco Children's Chorus - Spring Sing Alumni concert for current and former members of the Children's Chorus. Anyone who's sung in the chorus since its beginning in 1973 can come and join in. No rehearsal necessary, no crashing. Free. 3 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

23 TUESDAY

Portrait of a Girl From Nowhere - An urban fairytale playing at Theater Artaud, this play is definitely enticing for its title alone. The song/spoken word/theatrical dance-based narrative explores the issue of growing up biracial in a racially delineated 20th century America. Through March 27. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

25 THURSDAY

Hepatitis C Overview - UCSF's Hep C Support Project continues their community outreach

with "An Overview of Hepatitis C." Refreshments, videos, a patient's perspective, information about co-infection and more. Free. 1 pm. 50 Ivy St, 2d Floor conference room.

26 FRIDAY

Cuba Va - Third in an ongoing series, tonight's "Cuba Va" presents the struggle of the Cuban generation born within the Revolution. Perspectives on their struggles, hopes, and questions concerning the future of the Revolution. Filmmaker will be in attendance. 7 pm. \$3-5. At the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 821-1155.

Picadillo & Poetry - Serenity Enriquez will soothe the savages & spark the flickering lights by reading at Cafe Multicultural Valencia. No bathing suits allowed. 9pm. Free! 1109 Valencia. 824-7659.

Sonic Luminescence - Dance piece with original music, exploring ideas of faith, using the sound of light as kinetic inspiration. Inspired by 12th century abbess Hildegard Von Bingen. 3221 22st. 8 pm, through Sunday. \$13. 824-5044.

White Time - Kunststoff presents "White Time" a full-length dance play, independent films, art exhibition and live experimental music. The art of the schizophrenic in-between, the extreme neutral, the multiple zero, the dirty white, the broken time of a long forgotten future. Brady St. Theater, through March 28th. 566-9873.

Reel Revolutionaries - Two films by Emile de Antonia screen at Yerba Buena tonight, Underground and Mr. Hoover and I. Again dealing in detail with real revolutionaries and his own FBI file. 8 pm double feature. \$3-6. 701 Mission St. 978-2787.

27 SATURDAY

Oh My Aching Feet - Feeling orthopedically challenged? Can't seem to start off on the right foot? Sit a while at St. Luke's Hospital for a freeeee lecture on feet, with an emphasis on diabetic foot care. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6465 to register.

Saga of Baba Yaga - My my my what internal rhyme! The Marsh presents yet another intriguing puppet play, this time the haunting tale of Vasilisa and the Saga of Baba Yaga, performed by the Sneaky Pete Ensemble. It's a classic Russian folk tale of a poor peasant girl tricked by her crooked stepmother...you get the idea. Today and April 3. 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. 1062 Valencia. \$5-8. 826-5750 x2.

Tabby Tell-All - It might be hard to take cat behavior seriously, but if you've ever experienced the living hell of a cat feud in a small apartment,

you'd take this SPCA class on cat behavior. \$5-10. 1-2 pm. 2500 16th St. Reserve a space at 522-3525.

28 SUNDAY

Dark Hollow Bluegrass Band - While it's hard to find a dark hollow in the city—or a swimming hole or stream, for that matter—tonight's free concert at Radio Valencia may evoke that lost land with their high energy, sweet-fiddling, hot-picking bluegrass. 7:30 pm. 23d and Valencia. Free. 826-1199.

ONGOING

Mondays

Monday Night Forum for Poetry, Music, Discourse - It's time we had more discourse in our cafes and less therapy! Java Supreme Coffeehouse thinks so, anyhow, and they're hosting Monday night forums for free expression. The revolution will not be televised but it may be highly caffeinated. 703 Guerrero at 19th. 7:30 pm. 206-1832.

Tuesdays

Free Meditation Class - Learn to access your chakras and commune with the Higher Mind at Psychic Horizon's free meditation class. 7:30 pm. 972 Valencia. 643-8800.

Thursdays

Free Tenants Rights Counseling - Every Thursday 6-8 pm at Café la Bohème, 24th & Mission. Come and learn your rights, it's never been more important! For more info call 398-6200.

Fridays

Poetry Readings - Distinguished poets hosted by Jorge Argueta & Teresa Kennett at Cafe Multicultural Valencia. (Poets interested in being invited to read at the Friday Night Series should drop off resumé & work samples at the cafe.) 1109 Valencia, (22nd), 9pm. 824-7659. No cover up.

SF Games Night - Café Commons hosts an ongoing gaming night every Friday, billing itself as "Friendly card and board games open to all players." A healthy alternative way to meet people who play games but don't *play games*. And we don't just mean playas, playa. Bring your favorite games, too. 3161 Mission. 7 pm sharp. 679-3678.

Saturdays

ATA Gallery's Other Cinema - ATA features two 2-week miniseries of alternative films. The first half of the month focuses on local independent films; the second half parlays media-cultural discourses into historical mixtapes for personal and political meaning. Whatever that means. Every Sat, 8:30 pm. \$5. 992 Valencia. 824-3890.



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By F.R. Morales

The San Francisco Motorcycle Club: history riding on two wheels

It seems a person can't walk a block in the Mission these days without coming across a motorcycle. If there isn't one parked next to your building or between the parked cars on your street, you can be sure to find a couple parked in front of your favorite bar or cafe. Speaking of bars, there are several "urban biker" bars in the Mission - Zeitgeist and Shotwell 21 come to mind. There are also plenty of repair shops and motorcycle dealerships. Scuderia West and Monroe Motors are two examples, but there are many more. The Mission seems to be the ground zero of Moto-culture in the most motorcycle friendly city in the country.

The Mission is also home to a part of motorcycle history that stretches back to the absolute earliest days of the sport. Tucked in between a small apartment building and an auto-body shop on Folsom Street you'll find the blue-fronted clubhouse of the San Francisco Motorcycle Club (SFMC). Established in 1904, SFMC is the oldest motorcycle club East of the Hudson River, second only to the Yonkers Motor Cycle Club established in 1903 in Yonkers, New York.

Each Thursday night of the week, SFMC holds its official meetings which are open to the public.

During these seminal gatherings, you are likely to find every make and model of motorcycle imaginable parked in front of the Clubhouse. BMWs, Ducatis, Triumphs, Hondas and Harleys; dirt bikes, touring bikes, road racers and cruisers - they'll all be there sharing the sidewalk. SFMC is a brand-neutral motorcycle club; in fact, it is against club rules to mention any trade name during club meetings.

A step into the clubs headquarters is like a step back into time. The Clubhouse, once a blacksmith's shop, was purchased and re-built by SFMC in 1948. Its main feature is the long rectangular meeting room with old knotty-pine walls and a hardwood floor. There's a pool table, a foosball table, a jukebox and a trophy case. The visitor's eyes will register all of this, then jump immediately to the extensive collection of photographs, banners, and trophies dating back to the Clubs earliest days.

This is a historically significant collection that many museums would love to get their hands on. From huge panoramas of races and rallies to portraits and action

shots of racers and amateur riders, the seemingly hundreds of photographs show motorcycles and motorcyclists of every type and description from 1904 to the present.

The Clubs photographic treasures document the machines and the riders that mark significant times not just in motorcycle history, but in local history as well. Members of the SFMC were first to cross the Golden Gate Bridge when it was opened in 1937 and led the 50th anniversary crossing in 1987 as well. Past members also participated in the infamous Hollister run of 1947, which inspired the Brando classic "The Wild One." The Club won a trophy at that rally which they keep on display in the clubhouse, and they later co-sponsored the much-less controversial 50th anniversary Hollister run in 1997.

Many of the West Coast's motorcycling pioneers such as Dudley Perkins Sr.; acclaimed hill climber and founder of the oldest motorcycle dealership in the country; and Hap Jones; legendary racer, motorcycle dealer, and wild man; were members of the S.F.M.C.

Today, SFMC's membership comes from all walks of life and participates in all facets of modern motorcycling. From motorcycle couriers to legal counselors and all types in between, the sixty-plus members express their love of motorcycles in many ways. Red Fred collects Indian motorcycles. Joe Whiting is a speedway racer. Ron Bond favors long distance touring in exotic places like India and Eastern Europe, while John Sweeney and Squid Hardy favor road racing. Of course, there are plenty of members who just plain like to ride bikes - whether commuting to work or just to enjoy an occasional weekend spin. The youngest member is 21 and the oldest, Bob Vaughn, is 86 years of age.

The one thing that connects this diverse group of men and women is the love of motorcycles and motorcycling. The groups common devotion has generated great memories and inspired historic moments that are preserved in the photographs on its clubhouse walls. The SFMC is truly an institutional treasure and valuable part of the Mission's history. Yet, it is more than history - it's a living thing. Something you can touch, see and feel. Hell, you can even be a part of it. These guys are nice friendly folks. Come on down on Thursday night and check it out, guests are welcome.

The San Francisco Motorcycle Club meets every Thursday at 8:15pm, and are located at 2194 Folsom Street at 18th. For more information call 415/863-1930, or check out their website: www.bigfoot.com/~sfmc.

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Photo By Greg Roden

Eric Reed is hanging in there but could use some community support.

Iron Octopus is in the fight of its life Martial arts academy battles to stay on a tough corner

By Saida Benguerel

The Mission is rife with stories of Ellis evictions, slumlords, and little guys getting the boot to make way for "progress." The story of the Iron Octopus Martial Arts Academy is quite different. A martial arts studio on 20th Street, Iron Octopus has been operating at a deficit for three years, primarily kept afloat by the savings of Chief Instructor *Sensei* Eric Reed. But now his savings are exhausted and he is having trouble making the rent. Instead of booting Iron Octopus out of the corner commercial spot, the landlord has worked a deal with Reed to give him some much-needed time. This largess is mainly due to Reed himself. Exhibiting the best qualities of the martial arts, Reed is a walking billboard for his sport.

Iron Octopus is a discipline that incorporates many styles of martial arts, hence the allusion to 'many arms'. Aikido, Karate, and Judo are just some of the styles utilized in Iron Octopus. The sport also teaches humility and self-reliance. A 21-year veteran of martial arts, Reed is an instructor of life as well as Iron Octopus. "90% of Iron Octopus is commitment, focus, health, self-awareness, self-esteem and motivation, only 10% is about fighting (self-defense)," he says. Even though he feels that his business has been a success because he has reached so many children and adults with his message, it has not been a financial success.

Being located on a rough corner in the Mission District has proven to be a boon as well as burden. Reed's students are of all ages and walks of life. While the kids and adults that he wants to reach with his message, live right in the neighborhood, many worry about the gang presence on the corner. His is a strictly drug-free environment and a haven for at-risk youth as an alternative to the street-life of gangs, drugs and violence.

Using every technique he has learned over the years Reed has fought to keep his dream alive. He has turned to City Hall, the Small Business Administration, the media and the private sector for help in keeping the Iron Octopus Martial Arts Academy operational. Asking from the community is a new experience for Reed; usually it is the other way around. Reed is active in the neighborhood and uses the studio once a month for neighborhood meetings. He conducts gang-outreach and low-profile intervention, low-cost summer programs for kids, women's self-defense classes and has scholarships and work-study programs for low-income students.

"Many children and adults have told me that Iron Octopus has changed their lives," says Reed. He understands where these kids are coming from. Growing up in the Bronx and Spanish Harlem, Reed credits an early interest in martial arts with setting him on the road to "positivity."

"Some people have a negative approach to martial arts, they think its about fighting and violence. What they don't realize is that it can open up a whole new world for these kids, whose lives might normally only revolve around two square blocks and a TV."

"I have been talking to representatives from the Mayor's Office of Community Development. They have been helping me to find a direction to save the academy and find the tools to do so, he says." He is looking for donations, funding, ideas, sponsorships, advertising venues, new enrollment and corporate or private involvement in keeping his dream alive. "With the proper proposals, I should be able to get some government funding to help at-risk youth, he says." Until then, Iron Octopus needs help from the community, the same community that Reed has always tried to help.

The Iron Octopus is located at 3572 20th Street @ Lexington. For more information please call 415/824-9369.

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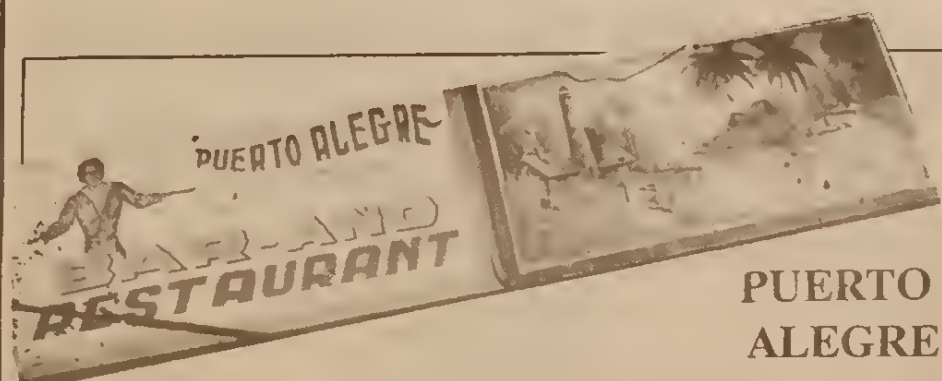
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Alabama Ban: TAROT Tool's Illegal in Dixie Devo Zone

Fabulous secrets of the springy season and sweet mysteries o'life in general - Tarot's all over those, of course. Just like Republicans on a tax shelter. This month's Phalluscard, excuse me, FLASHcard sets it all off, so here's what to expect when The Ace of wands pops up in your reading.

But first - this Spring I'm challenging you to help uplift the population of America's least evolved state with a little instant sex-ed rescue program, *The Emergency Alabama Action Spell*. You'll hear the haunting story of my own escape from the Devo Zone, and learn how you can help those still trapped inside the Evil Dixie Time Warp.

Escape from the Devo Zone

It was an almost-spring day. Last thing I remember was the heady, early jasmine and pink perfumed clouds of plum and cherry blossoms brightening up 22nd and 23rd, from Folsom to Valencia.

After I came to, I knew in my gut that I'd finally grokked what Margaret Atwood was trying to tell us about the Religious Right's Final Solution in her blockbuster, *The Handmaid's Tale*, when she said "It begins in Berlin, and it ends in Alabama" [paraphrase]. Don't know how long I stood there, shaking with the Evil Dixie Fear on me, reeling with the sense of missing time.

I immediately made spells of education and exhortation, and finally, the the nightmares of those gibbering, mushroom-pale sub-hominids clad in filthy loincloths fashioned from faded confederate flags, stopped.

Help reverse Alabama's Devolution

By now, you too have heard the news: Tools of Sex-You-All Pleasure have been outlawed in the Alabama Devolution Zone. Still, hard as it is to imagine, even those throwbacks over in the Zone have souls, and they need our help to make the next evolutionary leap. Here's how.

1) Xerox, then enlarge related imagery from the Good Vibrations catalog [Sexpert Carol Queen says page 10 is a luvly example; call 1-800-BUY VIBE for a free catalog].

2) Address an envelope 'Governor Dan Siegelman, The State Capitol, Montgomery AL 36101].

New Mission News



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3) Choose an educational exhortation spell below, or concoct one of your own, and write it on the back of the holy Springy Wand image.

4)Send.

Alabama Action Spells:

A) Feel the love & lift the ban, 'bamal
B) Alabama, oh love-wand-free, cash-poor land that evolution forgot...
Or, the minimalist C) Alabama: *don't go there* (repeat).

Astro Alert

Mercury Retrograde March 10 - April 2; Spring Equinox April 22 opens the gates of the year with fiery Aries power grounded in Taurus Moon. All ancient cultures feature rites of fertility-mimickry, planting, sex for fun and pleasure based on this principle. There's one ancient culture that doesn't: Alabama. But we're working on it.

Look at the card

A springy, sprouty gigantic phallic-knobbed branch (traditionally almond wood) is the basic ace, Magick Wand, Baton Rouge, aka Big Stick. By their very nature, Aces are a Don't call us, We'll Call You kind of card: that's why the Hand of Fate [or God/dess] always delivers 'em right outta the clouds, in defiance of all earth-plane constraints, like time, space, and even throwback Alabama legislation.

Ace o'wands you already know as the #1 Clubs card, changed into the triskele (3-leafed clover), that one-part phallus+ two-parts testicular units logo of the Eternal Masculine. it is Mother Nature's #1 favorite all-purpose generator-vibrator, setting off a supercharge of fire power that causes leaves to sprout, buds to blossom, fruit to ripen, life to begin.

Why almond? By tradition, it's the wood of Moses' and Aaron's magickal rods. Also linked are Euro-archetype of The Green Man and all vegetation gods. The budded, leafy almond rod symbolizes two truths: The power of creation is ALWAYS greater than the power of destruction; The greatest use of magickal power is to give sustenance to the people and animals of Earth.

Got ACE WANDS?

In the same way Spring is Nature saying YES! to life, Fired up ACE WANDS is the definitive YES! card of the deck.

Feeling lucky? ACE WANDS usually says you are supremely so. Big Stick brings Big Luv, as it depicts the very act of pro-creation, the organic viagra/tantra fire flow. Family, friends, lovers, co-workers may be shifting allegiances, affections in your favor if ACE WANDS appears in the relationship house. Careerwise, it's translated YES: as in 'the project is greenlighted' or 'definite hire', 'expand now.' Artists: Source is sending you concentrated inspiration now, so clear that calendar.

Jakwitch offers TAROT consultations for individuals, couples, and business. Call 415.206.9486 to schedule an in-depth overview of the second quarter, or explore life-path issues. Or book TAROTLite - a most memorable entertainment for groups of 10 to 200. Impeccable references.



Deborah Swisher brings her one-woman show to Brava on March 12.

One-woman Synanon dramedy opens at Brava

By Lydia Rheinfrank

Recently via telephone from New York, Deborah Swisher recalled her days fresh out of Synanon, the controversial Bay Area community/cult, where she lived from age 7 to 18. "I was Nell," she laughed, referring to Jodi Foster's wild, society-innocent film character, "except, with a few more syllables." Swisher returns this month to San Francisco, her home city, to present her dark "dramedy" (drama + comedy) titled "Hundreds of Sisters and One BIG Brother". The one-woman, ten-character play takes the audience into Swisher's personal life, an immersion in alternative 60's lifestyle.

With drug addicts entering Synanon to recover, the stories of the outer world were harrowing, and Synanon offered itself as a safe-haven with its own set of sanctioned rules and restrictions. "It was the Outside that was the sub-culture," Swisher recalls being taught, "They had murder, robbery, diseases." Inside, Swisher and her older sister were made to accept the other children as siblings (hence the title of her play) and were separated from their mother (a Jewish schoolteacher divorced from Swisher's Afro-American father) for weeks at a time. Besides performing arranged group marriages, Synanon was also notorious for what was called "The Game," an aggressive session where individuals were verbally abused by other society members in order to develop self-confidence.

Synanon maintained its own internal radio station, and television wasn't allowed at all, so any outside entertainment that did leak into the commune was "larger-than life" and Swisher ate it up. Active in various Christmas pageants and dramatic sketches, Swisher laughs when

she says she "certainly wasn't any Synanon Acting Star," but she knew by the age of 18 that she wanted out. "I wanted to be a teenager," she says. "Stay up past 8 o'clock -have a beer." She wanted to go to college. But leaving Synanon was not easy. Three years earlier, her sister had "run down the road in the middle of the night" and all ties to her were ordered severed. Deborah chose to go through the accepted process, offering herself up to "The Game and a long battle before she finally made it to San Francisco, where she moved in with her father.

Swisher went on to study dance and theater at San Francisco State University. She had stints on "Seinfeld," "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air," and currently is a vee-jay on VH-1's "Rock Candy" and HBO's "Entertainment News." She was the 1998 recipient of the Emerging Artist Award from New York's Franklin Furnace, The Jerome Foundation and the New York State Council for the Arts.

Describing her humor as a combination of Whoopi Goldberg's intense characters and Lili Tomlin's conversational weaving, Swisher brings an energetic physicality to "Hundreds of Sisters," which she performed to high acclaim on Off-Broadway in New York last fall. Called "both bitingly humorous and heart breaking," the play evolved out of Swisher's anger surrounding the government's and media's treatment of the Waco incident. "I was ten years out [of Synanon] and was having a bunch of epiphanies about the past, and then Waco . . . I could have been one of those children who died."

"Hundreds of Sisters and One BIG Brother" runs March 12-28 at BRAVA Theater Center at 2789 24th Street (at 24th & York). Showtime's are 8pm Wednesdays through Saturdays with Sunday Matinees at 3pm. Tickets range \$12-15. Call 415/647-2822.

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The Baobob Grill: great Sengalese food and world beat atmosphere.

The new charms of the Baobob Grill

Revisiting the exotic pleasures of Sengalese cuisine

By Saida Benguerel

After facing the traumas of the urban jungle, the Baobob Grill is like stepping into paradise. The walls are sponged a burnt sienna, votive candles flicker on the entire odd assortment of tables, lush tropical greenery and African tribal art fill the space. The place offers an eclectic mix of recorded music that tends to be both nostalgically hip and relaxing—like Bob Marley or Edith Piaf. Having done a bit of traveling, it was like coming home, a very recognizable mix of the international back-packer/traveler aesthetic.

When I first ate at the Baobob Grill (then named Keur-Baobob) over a year ago, the menu was limited but what they did do, they did well. The chicken fell from the bone, moist and delicious. The peanut sauce was thick and savory, and almost called for a licking of the plate.

On my recent visit to the Baobob, I found everything that I had remembered fondly but with some great improvements. The first noticeable change is the freshly constructed bar (yeah, for beer on tap!). The bar serves an interesting assortment of premium exotic cocktails (hard-alcohol cocktails, almost a must for survival in the dance of death known as the Mission restaurant squeeze).

One of the owners, Marco Oliviet, is also Mr. Good Ginger, a local purveyor of fresh "out-there" juices such as tamarind, ginger and hibiscus. They have utilized this connection to make interesting hybrid margaritas, sours and other cocktails. I have yet to try one though, because their beer selection is pretty fair (Guinness, Sierra Nevada, Pilsner Urquell, etc.). They have also expanded the menu and operation hours. They not only have a total of five entrees but are now open for brunch on the weekends, as well.

We started our meal with the eponymous starter dish (\$3.75). Green and black olives, julienned daikon radish, and Parmesan bread sticks arrived in a glass boat with a great balance of flavors and textures. Salty and sweet, smooth and crunchy, this appetizer served its purpose well by making us hungry. We also snacked on fried plantains (\$3.00) which were delicately fried but tasted as if they had been sitting around awhile.

Once again the standout dish was the Maffe with peanut sauce (\$6.50). The chicken still fell from the bone, and I still wanted to lick my plate clean. I ordered



mine on a bed of couscous, which arrived at the table light and fluffy (no small feat for restaurant couscous). African peanut sauce is nothing like Thai peanut sauce. It is thicker, more nutty, and somehow more savory, in the truest sense of the word.

This time we also tried the Yassa (\$6.50), which on the menu is described as grilled onions in a lemon garlic mustard sauce. Actually, the grilled onions come with boiled carrots and an unidentified tuber that was not a potato. This dish won kudos for its aroma alone. These one-plate dishes are generous helpings of your vegetable and starch allotment for the day.

While dinner is only served until 10:00pm, there is an abbreviated bar menu which features most of the starters, a sandwich plate, and chips and salsa until closing time at 2:00am.

Baobob is also joining my roster of favorite Mission brunch spots. There is nothing African about brunch, but there is something a little French (they speak French in Senegal). Most breakfasts come with a choice of bread or baguette, and there is an "egg croissant" which turns out to be a sandwich.

For lighter morning appetites there is a tartines, a baguette with butter and choice of honey, jam or nutella. The potatoes served with the egg dishes are the usual boiled then fried country-style potatoes, but made delicious by generous helpings of garlic and *herbes-de-provence*. My tofu scramble was bits of tofu sautéed in a mild yellow curry, which made it look like Technicolor scrambled eggs but taste very Indian. Brunch prices are extremely reasonable (\$3.25-\$6.25) and the portions are very generous.

The Baobob Grill is located at 3388 19th Street @ Mission and Open Wednesday to Sunday from 6pm to 2am. Dinner is served until 10pm and brunch is served from 10 to 11am on Saturdays and Sundays. Call 643-3558.

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Moving off the Curb: Beyond Bottles, Cans and Paper

By David Assmann, Senior Administrator, SF Recycling Program

Do you think recycling when you replace your flashlight batteries, paint your home, or change the oil in your car? There's much more to recycling than putting bottles, cans and paper in your curbside bins. You can take almost all of your household hazardous waste items to the facility near 3com. However, if you have only motor oil, latex paint or batteries, there are several locations in different neighborhoods where it is more convenient to drop off than driving all the way across town.

Used Motor Oil

There are more than 50 gas stations and auto parts stores in San Francisco where residents can drop off their motor oil. To find a drop-off location in your neighborhood, please call 544-4333. Oil is a non-renewable resource that can easily be recycled and reused many times. Oil dumped in the street will cause pollution if it washes into the ocean or bay.

Latex Paint

If you have leftover oil based paint, give it to someone who will use it or take it to one of the City's latex drop off sites for recycling.

clinging. There are nine sites in the City. To find the one closest to you, please call the Hazardous Waste hotline at 554-4333. These stores only accept latex paint for recycling. For free recycled latex paint, please call 330-1406.

Oil Based Paint

If you have leftover oil based paint, there's only one place to recycle it (see "Most Household Chemicals" below). There are very few times when you need to use oil-based paint, and there are many advantages to using latex paint. The primary advantage is that latex is much easier to clean out of your brushes and other. Another important advantage is that it doesn't expose you, your family or the environment to as many pollution-causing vapors.

Alkaline Batteries

All batteries contain toxic metals. In order to keep these materials from landfills, take them to one of the following recycling sites: any Cole Hardware, Rainbow Grocery, or Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

Rechargeable Batteries

Rechargeable batteries last longer and are less expensive than single use alkaline batteries. You can save money too - about \$200 a year by using rechargeables instead

of alkalines in a single cassette player (that's if you use it about two hours a day). Nickel-cadmium batteries (Ni-Cads) that no longer work can be taken to any Radio Shack, Circuit City or Cole Hardware. They are also accepted at North Point Camera, Bridge Radio Communications, Auto Symphony, Camera Express, Cal-Marine Electronics, Cameras and More, Top Line Cameras, Stanley's TV, California Electric Service and Viking Tool Repair.

Car Batteries can be taken to several battery recycling companies in San Francisco; look in the Yellow Pages under "Batteries." Many of them will even pay you \$1 for each car battery. You can also ask your local auto shops if they will take your used auto batteries.

Household Chemicals

Most Household Chemicals from your home can be taken to the City's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (located at Sanitary Fill Company on the

other side of the freeway from 3com Park). This includes oil-based paint, pesticides, cleaning chemicals, etc. Most of the wastes received at the facility are recycled. Those that can't be recycled are sent to special hazardous waste treatment or disposal facilities. The household facility is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Before driving to the facility call 554-4333 for information on what materials are accepted, instructions on transportation and directions. The City also offers to pick up service for senior citizens and people who are disabled. To make an appointment to have your waste picked up, you can call Safety Kleen at 1-800-897-3088.

Free Information

The best option for hazardous waste, however, is to reduce the amount of hazardous materials you use in the first place. For free publications and information about less toxic materials used in gardening, cleaning and remodeling, call the Hazardous Waste hotline at 554-4333.

National Park Service reaches out to Latino communities

By Melissa Aguilar

As a Latina Park Service employee, I want to tell you about a conference that the Golden Gate National Recreation Area hosted last month in San Francisco that bridged my community and my profession. It was the first national conference that focused on race and diversity in America's National Parks. The conference brought together park staff with an array of diverse organizations to implement strategies to break down barriers and build new partnerships between the parks and neighboring communities.

I was glad to see representatives of diverse organizations, but most of all proud to see important Hispanic leaders including Maria Montoya, Professor of the University of Michigan; Roger Rivera, President, National Hispanic Environmental Council; Christina Valdez, Director, Cross Cultural Environmental Leadership and others. The speakers shared their own experiences and challenges that they encountered in their lives and careers. Based on their experiences, they also related to us ways to break down barriers of race and diversity in our communities and work place.

The workshop I attended during the conference was conducted by PODER (People Organized to Defend

Environmental Rights in the Mission District). This multicultural organization is educating their neighborhood about environmental problems and how to find solutions to these local problems. As an example, the workshop described the dangers of hazardous materials and contamination. PODER's environmental justice campaign, Proyecto Mapa (Mission Anti-Pollution Action Project), is currently focused on a vacant lot at Treat and 23rd Streets that is contaminated with toxins and has been abandoned for the past several years. PODER is advocating for the creation of a community park on that site.

The National Park Service encourages the Latino Community to learn about different sites to visit as well as volunteer opportunities. There are several resources in the park service that can be useful to Latino organizations. Organizations and communities are always welcome to express their ideas, experience new opportunities and environments, and learn the beauty of nature at their local national park - Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Melissa Aguilar is currently working in the public affairs office of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and is a San Francisco native. She also attends City College of San Francisco and volunteers for the Mission Economic Cultural Association (MECA). For more information, on the park, you can contact Melissa (415) 561-4630.

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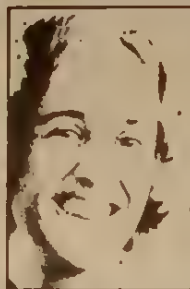


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\$10,000 to Mission Creek Bikeway

The Potrero Nuevo Fund has awarded the Madrina Group \$10,000 to create sculptural "Markers" along the Mission Creek Bikeway route. This will help bring attention to the Mission Creek Bikeway project and heighten awareness of the now underground river which flows beneath the streets of the northeast Mission along Harrison, Treat and Division streets on its way to Mission Bay.

The Madrina Group will solicit proposals this spring from artists working in a variety of mediums to create visual markers, signage, icons, etc. which can stand alone, or be attached to fences, light posts, buildings, etc. along the route. These markers are intended to be temporary but could be incorporated or installed permanently when the Bikeway/Greenbelt is completed.

Call for Artists

If you are interested in receiving more detailed information on the Mission Creek Marker Project please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: the Madrina Group at Project Artaud 499 Alabama St. # 203 San Francisco, Ca 94110. Please DO NOT send bios or slides at this time. Request for Proposals will be available soon.

SF Children's Chorus sings

Since 1973, roughly 1,000 children from the Mission and surrounding neighborhoods have sung their hearts out in the San Francisco Children's Chorus at venues like the 1985 Superbowl in Stanford stadium, Warriors' and Giants' games, City Hall, Union Square, as well as on television, radio, and auditoriums throughout the Bay Area. In celebration of their 25th anniversary, the chorus has planned an array of special concerts. This month, they will perform a Spring Sing Alumni Concert that will include seasonal songs and nostalgic alumni sing-a-long.

As part of the Community Music Center (CMC), the private, non-profit institution that has been active for 77 years in the Mission, the chorus provides accessible and high-quality music instruction to children of all cultural and financial backgrounds. With rehearsals twice a week and free tuition, children between the ages of 7 and 13 gain musical training as well as basic cooperative and teamwork skills.

The chorus Director, Candace Forest, is a nationally recognized innovator in children's music education and an acclaimed musician, composer and producer. She has written numerous children's operettas and directs the Singing Rainbow Ensemble in nearby Noe Valley. Taking an interactive, hands-on approach, Forest often collaborates with her chorus students in writing songs ranging from pop to folk genres.

The Spring Sing Alumni Concert takes place Sunday, March 21, at 3pm at the Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street. The concert is free and open to the public and Chorus alumni are encouraged to warm up their vocal chords. Call 415/647-6015 for more information.

An upcoming CMC event, non anniversary-related, promises to be one of the more exciting musical events of the season. The Apple Hill Chamber Players, internationally recognized for their ensem-

ble traditions and eloquent interpretation of chamber music literature, will perform on March 19th. The New York Times has written that the Apple Hill players have "Passion, expertise, commitment, and a physical abandon that made the music sound positively irresistible."

Civil Grand Jury needs volunteers

The 1999-2000 Civil Grand Jury of the City and County of San Francisco seeks its next crop of volunteers. Receive a per diem fee of \$11 for each meeting, with a minimum 500-hour service time. Grand Jurors participate in deciding which government officers, departments, and agencies the Jury will investigate. Volunteers, as part of Grand Jury committees, will visit government facilities, meet with officials, and develop recommendations for improving City and County operations.

Civil Grand Jurists are required to disclose all investment and business positions in business entities, and all interests in real property. They must also disclose any income from sources which have done business within the City and County in the past two years, and income from all individuals who are city employees.

If you are 18 or older, have been a SF resident for at least one year, possess ordinary intelligence and good character, and speak English, then the Grand Jury wants you! 19 members serve for a one-year period from July through June of the following year and are selected at random from a pool of 30 prospective candidates.

Prospective Grand Juror Declaration Forms may be obtained in person at the Grand Jury Office, 400 McAllister Street, Room 008, San Francisco, M-F 8am to 5pm, or by calling the Grand Jury Office at 415/ 551-3605. Applications must be received no later than 5pm, Monday, April 12.

Activists Wanted

Anti-rape activists are needed to support sexual assault survivors. *San Francisco Women Against Rape* is currently conducting crisis counselor training. Call Janelle at 415/ 861-2024.

Coalition is on the move

The Mission District Coalition (MDC) is presently organizing residents to promote economic development, small businesses and the rights of tenants and immigrants as well as around environmental issues. During the past several months, MDC collected and analyzed surveys from more than 1,000 local households. The survey was designed by the Immigrant Rights Movement (MDI) and conducted by more than 300 volunteers who asked residents about concerns, services and proposals for possible solutions. MDC also has led two public meetings and compiled the opinions of the attending activists and residents. A group of over 30 Mission residents are presently involved with MDC Coordinating Committees.

"Gentrification and all its related issues are central to our discussions," said MDC member Alberto Miquez, "but people want to seriously develop a movement that goes beyond a simple protest. They want political power with their neighbors, to put forward and develop ideas and concrete solutions, and a plan of action to make those ideas possible."

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After the last meeting a proposal was accepted to start the organization of a Mission District Community Congress. The idea is to mobilize the neighborhood and establish a list of common needs. According to one of the organizers, who spoke during the meeting, the objective of the Community Congress is to organize 2,000 neighbors to actively get involved on these issues.

The MDC is a membership organization open to all residents of the Mission District. The next public meeting of the MDC will be Thursday, March 11, 6:30pm. For meeting location and more information call 415/643-6968.

Learn Legislation Inside Out

An eleven-month Assembly Fellowship Program is open to applicants. Participants gain deep insight into the governmental process by actively engaging legislative members, senior staff, officials and lobbyists on all kinds of state issues. Eighteen college graduates will be accepted for the 1999-2000 program, receiving a \$1,792 monthly stipend plus benefits. Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) says, the program "offers invaluable experience to individuals seeking to expand their knowledge of the legislative process". Undergraduate degrees must have been earned by June of 1999 and individuals with advanced degrees or those in mid-career are also encouraged to apply. Call Assemblywoman Migden's Capital office at 916/319-2013 or contact the Center for California Studies at 916/278-6906 for application info.

Library Scores the Big One

The campaign to furnish and equip the newly renovated Mission Branch Library beat its original \$320,000 fundraising goal by \$50,000. The Friends and Foundation for the San Francisco Public Library contributes the campaign's success to gifts from such groups as Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which donated \$10,000, the Sara H. & William R. Kimball Foundation, and numerous individuals. Grass roots efforts like those of Café Bohème, Janice's Java Joint, and Muddy Waters cafe which offered used books to customers in exchange for a small donation to benefit the Mission Library

Fund also brought in the bucks. The library will reopen early May. The additional funds raised will be held as a library endowment, to be used for such purposes as updated equipment, additional books, and possibly a children's garden. For further info, call 415/557-4257.

Snipped and Safe at Home

The SF/SPCA is offering \$5 rewards to those who bring in their own unaltered feline or neighborhood strays to be spayed or neutered. Pit bulls and Rottweilers are also welcomed. And once you've got them snipped, you can browse www.sfspca.org for a pet-friendly rental home to house you and your feline/canine friends. Tenants and landlords are also encouraged to seek sample pet resumes and pet policies by calling 415/554-3098.

Put your voice where it counts

In an effort to increase accessibility, the SF Board of Education has stepped up its outreach push and has created a new series of "Meet & Greet", informational sharing sessions to be held with the School Board Commissioners. The board meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7pm in the Everett Middle School Auditorium at 450 church Street. The March 23 meeting has been moved to Abraham Lincoln High School (2162 24th Ave.), May 25. The meetings are also broadcast live on KALW Radio, 91.7 fm. For more information on specific subjects and Ad Hoc committees, or to be placed on the speaker's list for upcoming meetings, call 415/241-6493.

Seeking Multimedia Skills

For low/moderate-income Mission District residents interested in gaining skills for entry level new-media positions MediaLink provides free counseling on available multimedia and computer training programs. Help in obtaining part-time work while training is also available. Applicants need to have a High School Diploma or GED, knowledge of MAC computer basics, and need to apply by April 16. Call 415/865-2105 ext. 106 for more information.

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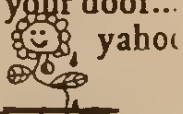
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NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEM SOLVING GUIDE

GETTING EFFECTIVE POLICE RESPONSE

☛ Report every crime, no matter how small. Though police response may not be as timely as preferred, over a period, their presence and awareness of your area *will* increase. The police department logs every call to identify crime trends, and base the number of police assigned to each area based on reported calls.

☛ Call 9-1-1 for emergencies or crimes in progress. The operator will ask for information about the problem and descriptions of any suspects while simultaneously sending information about your call to a dispatcher via computer. Try to keep calm and give as much information as you can. When police arrive depends on how many priority calls are ahead of yours. If you have questions about the service you receive from an operator, ask to speak to a supervisor.

☛ Report suspicious activity, such as persons looking into cars or backyards, or "casing" a home or business. This gives police a chance to stop a crime *before* it happens. Too often people ignore things they think are odd, only to find out later that a crime did occur.

☛ To report a non-emergency problem, a crime that has already occurred, or a suspicious activity, call 553-0123.

☛ To speak to your district officers about an on-going problem in your neighborhood, call your local police station directly. Don't call your station to report a crime -- use either 9-1-1 in emergencies, or 553-0123 to report actual crimes or suspicious activity.

GRAFFITI

☛ The best way to rid the neighborhood of graffiti is to paint it out immediately when it pops up. The City operates a graffiti clean-up van which will paint out graffiti, with the property owner's approval, free of charge. They will also leave some matched paint so that residents can continue to paint out the graffiti themselves. To contact the DPW van, call 241-WASH.

☛ There is a city ordinance which requires property owners to remove graffiti from their buildings in a timely manner. If a property owner refuses to do so, the city may paint out the graffiti and charge the owner for the service. Call 241-WASH to report graffiti.

☛ To report damage or graffiti on bus shelters, call Outdoor Systems at 882-4949.

☛ To remove graffiti from difficult surfaces you can try one of these two products:
1) "Orange Magic," from Mike Millard, 387-8120
2) "Disappear," from Santora Sales, 282-3131.

FINDING THE PROPERTY OWNER

☛ Sometimes it is necessary to find the owner of a property - to invite them to a meeting, to get their permission to paint out graffiti, or get them to abate the problem behavior of tenants on their property.

☛ Find the owner of a property by calling the City's Assessor's office at 554-5421 or 554-5525..

☛ An acquaintance in real estate should be able to find property owner information.

TRAFFIC SIGNS, SPEED HUMPS Etc.

☛ The Department of Parking and Traffic handles all requests for traffic signs, stop lights, and "speed humps." Their number is 554-2300. The best way to get a quick response from DPT is to write a letter letting them know: 1) The exact proposal for change, 2) the exact location, 3) a brief explanation of what is prompting the change. After receiving your request, traffic engineers will study the situation and then make a decision. DPT's address is:

*Mr. Band Yee, Bureau Chief for Traffic
Department of Parking and Traffic
25 Van Ness Avenue #345
San Francisco, CA 94102*

☛ If you are not sure just what to do to alleviate the problem, or if DPT has denied your request, invite a representative from that department to discuss the issues with your neighborhood group.



STREET LIGHTS

☛ A well-lit street is one of the best deterrents to crime. If your city street lights are out or are providing insufficient lighting, or you would like new light poles installed, call 554-0729, or write to:

*Dee Lenimon, Street Lighting Engineer
Bureau of Light, Heat and Power
1155 Market Street
San Francisco CA 94103.*

☛ Call the Department of Public Works at 695-2162 to trim city-owned trees. Foliage from sidewalk trees can block illumination from the strongest lights from reaching the ground. To find who is the owner of a tree, call the City Assessor's Office.

☛ Street lighting is only one part of the solution — SAFE strongly recommends that individual properties are well-lit, with porch lights left on throughout the night, or with motion-sensitive lights.

CLEANING STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

☛ The Department of Public Works provides several services to help you keep your street clean. To have them pick up large trash (couches, refrigerators, etc.) dumped on the street, call 695-2017.

☛ To report hazardous waste (motor oil, batteries, etc.) on the streets or sidewalks call 695-2134.

☛ To help you organize a neighborhood clean-up call the Clean City Coalition at 553-2913. DPW can lend brooms and trash bags and provide special trash pick-ups the day of the event. Call DPW at 695-2017.

☛ To report theft of recycled materials call 330-CURB.

PARKING PROBLEMS

☛ To have a car towed, a.g. one that is blocking your driveway, call 553-1200. If you are having on-going problems with people blocking your driveway, you may be able to have the city paint a portion of the curb red. Only paint with the "DPT" mark is considered official. The usual fee charged by DPT is \$55. Call 554-2336 to paint your curb.

☛ To alleviate parking congestion during the day the city can designate certain areas "residential permit parking," with one, two or four hour limits. Residents must then purchase yearly permits for their vehicles and temporary permits for guests. Call 554-2308. Note that night time parking congestion is not alleviated by residential permit parking. A side effect of permit parking is an increase in the number of daily visits to your area by parking enforcement officers.

☛ Tow abandoned cars on the block to alleviate parking congestion. Call 781-JUNK.

☛ If parking problems are caused by a valet service using city streets to park cars, contact your local police station's permit officer to discuss the problem. Attendants are usually bound by the terms of their permit to use an off-street lot.

*This information has been compiled by
San Francisco SAFE, a city-wide crime prevention
agency. For more copies, or to request any of our
crime prevention services, please call 553-1984*

CLOSING DRUG HOUSES

☛ The critical step in dealing with trouble properties is to document, document, document! Write down a brief description, with the date and time, of every suspicious activity or nuisance behavior, such as frequent late night visitors. You may have to do this several dozen times a day.

☛ To create an official log of the problems at the property, call the police everytime you suspect drug dealing, other criminal activity or nuisances. Call the anonymous narcotics reporting hotline at 1-800-CRACK-IT to report drug dealing or call the police non-emergency number, 553-0123, to report other crimes, suspicious activity or nuisances. By documenting activity and calling the police often, you and your neighbors will be setting up a firm case for whatever legal action might ensue.

☛ Write a letter to the property owner outlining your complaints about the building. An effective strategy is to give a deadline to abate the problems. Owners are legally responsible for their properties and any nuisances caused by their tenants. (To locate an absentee owner, see "Finding the Property Owner")

☛ Once you have begun documenting the activity, call the City Attorney's Code Enforcement Task Force at 554-3903. They bring together several city agencies in a coordinated effort to stop drug activity in problem properties.

☛ A powerful option available to neighbors is to file a small claims court suit. Each person affected by the nuisance property may sue for up to \$5,000 dollars. The filing fee for small claims court is minimal, and neither party may use a lawyer in the courtroom.

Da Column



Willie Lewis Brown, Jr.

Taking Care of our Children: Taking Care of our City

The neighborhood newspapers have given me many opportunities to address the various youth programs offered through the City. I have written to you about the Youth Empowerment Conference, the Youth Employment for the Summer Program and Youthworks. All of these innovative programs have increased youth employment, youth involvement and have secured relationships between city departments and community-wide non-profits that continue to make San Francisco safer and youth-friendly.

Just last week, yet another program was unveiled that will promise increased services for our youth. The Adopt-a-Childcare-Center partnership, made up of the Department of Children, Youth and their Families, Christmas in April and several local construction companies, will join together to renovate more than twenty local non-profit childcare centers.

The availability of childcare slots in safe and healthy environments is a concern to every parent in the city, but it is also a pressing important one to people who are moving from welfare to work. Funding sources for childcare are generally inadequate to meet the strict operating costs for high-quality care and there are often little to no funds for improving already existing facilities.

By renovating existing childcare centers around the City, the partnership will create more than 300 new slots and maintain nearly 1000 already-existing slots. Many of these childcare centers are located in historically under-served neighborhoods of San Francisco including Chinatown, Western Addition, Mission Dolores, Bayview/Hunter's Point, Visitation Valley, Park Merced and the Sunset District.

Through this current child-care initiative, the Department of Children, Youth and their Families (DOCYF) has enlisted the help of several construction companies, all of whom have agreed to generously donate labor and materials to complete the front-end technical work ranging from major construction to room expansions. Christmas in April, a non-profit organization dedicated to renovating community facilities and low-income residential homes, will mobilize volunteers to complete selected projects such as painting, landscaping, constructing storage units, space planning and designing and painting murals. Construction on various sites will begin in February and in some cases continue through September 1999.

The Adopt A Childcare Center program is one part of an ongoing effort by the Mayor's Stating Points Initiative to increase high-quality child-care for working families. It is also a multifaceted approach for the City and its partners to increase educational, recreational, health and safe-space programs for the City's youth. Over the last year, San Francisco

has dedicated \$360 million in federal, state and local funds solely for children and youth programs.

The City's budget, for example, included the following monetary allocations: \$28 million for prevention programs, including:

\$22 million for childcare initiatives

\$6 million for expanded youth opportunities

\$800,000 for childcare facility improvements, training for childcare providers and additional evening and weekend service

\$620,000 in health and safety programs

\$1 million to increase youth employment and to improve services at community centers

These monies manifest themselves in collaborative and inventive programs such as the Beacon Centers, which are school-based extended-hour sites that offer year-round after school youth programs in leadership, support learning and arts and recreation. The existing Beacon Centers are another example of a collaborative effort; Beacon sites work with 52 community-based organizations, six city departments, and 15 private foundations as well as the mayor's office. Thanks to the 1988-99 fiscal year budget, three new Beacon Centers will soon open its doors.

As parents, we all have a personal interest in providing safe and nurturing spaces for our children. As a community, we have a vested interest in providing stimulating and educational environments for our youth - who are the future of our city. For the first time ever, the DOCYF has issued a comprehensive budget publication that documents the many ways the Department implements children and youth-oriented programs across agencies, departments and traditional budget boundaries, and provides details on specific neighborhoods as well as programs. For more information on the Department and the publication, visit the DOCYF website at www.mocyf.org



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Qualifications	Clean Credit History, Annual Household Income of \$17,000 or less for Education, Job Training, Personal; or Initial Capital of \$30,000, or less for Small Business and Purchase of Commercial Vehicle
Loan Amount	Up to \$15,000 per household or per business entity
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	* For example, on a loan of \$5000, with an 84-month term, monthly payment is \$72.45

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Poems of the Month

edited by **Barbara Bennett**

Pineapple

Princess
with your hair all messy
Little princess
dressed in gold
Pineapple princess
homely and wonderful
Young girl
with pimples
Pineapple
sweet girl
I don't know
believe me
I don't know
who I am kissing
when I kiss you.

-Jorge Argueta

Maranon

Maranon
is a cloud
is a smile
is a moon
is a sun
Maranon
is a wild boy
carrying his heart
on his head

-Jorge Argueta

Notes, San Francisco for Teresita and Jorge

Yes,
I am back again.

The cold water of the Pacific ocean still
crushes against the joints
of my limbs.

The moss grows over the pines cones
with the voices of men.

The sand in my teeth.
A veridian green sprouts
from every crack on the sidewalk,
from every roof, from every pore.
The unsatiable lover, the rain, penetrates
cement, plants, hair, hands and feet.

It is night and the human caterpillar
moves with the smell of wine,
beer and cocaine.
The poets at Cafe Valencia wait
for another word, for another love,
for another transparent glass.

On the street transients and vendors
play with the steam of their breath.
A metallic monster rolls down the street
swallowing all the leftover,
redeeming her clean again,
ready for another day.

Yes, I am back, and I don't know why.
I have a few names and addresses.
I don't know if it was true or a dream.
If it was you or me.
This time you were nice to me again.
And I gave you words.
What else, what else do I have.

I touched the sand and kissed your mouth
of salt, and drunk from your lips
the taste of all those ones
who have made love to you.

The merchant at the corner's store
questioned the name of my son, Khalil.
We talked, and laughed like relatives
of a distant family, although
we have never seen each other before.

Later, among wine glasses
we coursed our present.
We question why white is white,
why black is black, and
we couldn't agree on what brown is.

The nights and days went by.
The veridian green became dark, deep.

The purple tear tree at the top of the hill
saw everything.
And one day we stopped in the middle
of the trail, to sing,
to sing to yellow leaves.
Aromo, Aromo, Ode to the Aromo
we said,
and laugh at loud, like
when we were little kids.

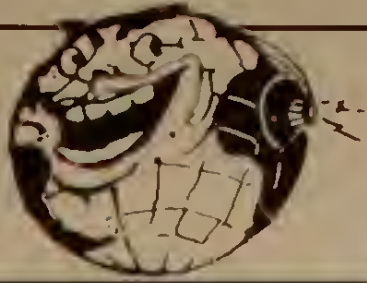
The kisses of the ocean,
the city moist and green.
The murals,
the serpent roads and gardens.
The street artists, the Chinese woman,
the seagulls.
The noises of spirits possessing flesh,
The street corners full of life and death.
All of them...
found sanctuary inside me again.

-Hector Ahumada
02/12/99, SLC (Unedited, 1st draft)
Send works to Poetry Editor,
New Mission News,
777 Valencia, S. F. CA 94110



Round World Music Review

Robert Leaver



CLANDESTINO

The most interesting new release I've heard recently is Manu Chao's "Clandestino." He was a member of a French group called Mano Negra (Black Hand) that was like a modern French version of British punk band The Clash. He must be from the southern part of France because he sings mostly in Spanish. His songs range from world-weary laments with up beats to cynical romps with enough silliness thrown in to avoid being too pretentious. Many of the songs have a simple reggae inflected rhythm featuring guitars both acoustic and electric and his perfectly rough multi-tracked vocals.

Chao is like a modern troubadour singing his songs with guitar in hand in a politicized world café with the chatter of radio, television and public spaces fading in and out of the background. The recording plays continuous without breaks as Chao sings his songs about desperation, the disappeared, marijuana, Zapatistas, Babylon, the sun and moon, and playing bongo in the jungle. The music balances between the intimacy of what seems like one man with a guitar and his song to the addition of a party horn section and anchored bass. The majority of the songs are sung in Spanish with a couple in both French and English and even one in Portuguese. This is a pop record but it is more intriguing than the pop music I am hearing from American culture. The record has a concept and it works around it in a manner that is like a montage. In singing *everything in this world is a lie*, he's looking for some truth or, at least, sincerity.

Chucho Valdes and Irakere have a new release entitled "Yemaya." The recording was made in Cuba and licensed to Blue Note records. Featuring Chucho's lightning handwork on the keyboard and the full rhythm and horn sections they mix folklore and jazz.

Myra Valdes sings a powerful gospel-tinged praise of Yemaya on the title cut

and there is also a song entitled "San Francisco." There are many long passages that leave space for some great solos on piano, sax, trumpet and drums. The only thing that bothers me on this recording is the sound of the electric keyboard Chucho is playing. Compared to the superb jazz recording he did last year, "Bele Bele en La Habana," this new Irakere disc lacks only one thing - a real piano.

Cubanismo, led by trumpeter Jesus Alemany, return to San Francisco for what promises to be a great dance show at Bimbo's on Saturday, March 20. All three records they have done are superb. They play a full range of classic Cuban styles with a large dynamic horn section, great percussionists and vocalists, including Rolo Martinez, who also has his own solid record. Long before Buena Vista Social Club brought Cuban music into the American mainstream Cubanismo was here touring extensively with their classic repertoire of Cuban music. They helped open the door for Cuban music and have maintained the traditions. Alemany, the leader of this group played trumpet for years with the group Sierra Maestra, along with guitarist Juan de Marcos Gonzalez who produced the Buena Vista Social Club and Afro-Cuban All Stars. They were playing the traditional Cuban *son* at a time when no one in Cuba wanted to hear that. It's only fitting that they would be on the forefront of the Cuban Roots revival.

Other musical events this month include a concert by respected salsa percussionist, Ralph Irizarry and his group, Timbalaye Saturday, March 27, at the Seventh Note, 915 Columbus Ave.

Round World Productions continues presenting bands at the Elbo Room, 647 Valencia (between 17th & 18th). The West African Highlife Band performs Thursday, March 4 (\$5). Jesus Diaz y QBA appears on Saturday, March 6 (\$6). Asabache with Ray & Manny Martinez make the scene Thursday, March 18 (\$5). The doors open at 10pm and DJ BabaLoup will also lay groove



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